

# CLASS WAR

## Internationalist News and Analysis

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**United States  
South Korea & Allies:  
Hands Off North Korea!  
Down with UN sanctions!  
Defeat the imperialist war drive  
against North Korea!**



*Obama at the DMZ prior to the March 2012 Seoul Summit, where he warned North Korea as part of US imperialist war drive in East Asia (Pool/Yonhap News via Bloomberg)*

In the first week of April the United States along with South Korea and its other allies continued its escalation against the North Korean (DPRK) bureaucratically deformed workers state (DWS), one of the historic gains for the international working class in the aftermath of World War II. South Korea on April 5th deployed two Aegis destroyers to monitor North Korea, while 2500 US marines have deployed to Australia and there has been a military buildup in Guam as well. Under the pretext of the DPRK developing a nuclear weapons capability, the United States, the only nation to ever use nuclear weapons in a war, is going after the North Korean regime to promote its imperialist interests in the region. This is scare-mongering by the Obama administration to rally support for their adventures, much like the "Weapons of Mass Destruction" claim used by the Bush administration to wage war on Iraq. The DPRK has no capacity to hit the USA with long range missiles or any nuclear payload.

North Korea possesses zero nuclear warheads! No reports that can be independently verified estimate any North Korean delivery systems capability in the next five years. Meanwhile, the US, which has about 8,000 nuclear warheads

*Cont pg 3.*

**DEFEAT THE COUP IN THE  
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC!  
DEFEAT IMPERIALISM!  
AFRICOM OUT NOW!  
NO RETURN FOR BOZIZE  
WORKERS AND PEASANTS TO  
POWER!**



*South African Troops doing imperialism's work in C.A.R.*

On the 24th of March 2013 the Seleka rebel coalition took control of the capital of the Central African Republic (CAR) forcing president Bozize, who had unsuccessfully appealed to the French and American imperialists for military support against rebels, was forced to flee the country. The rebel leader, Michel Djotodia, has since dissolved the constitution of 2004 and has declared himself president and minister of defence for the three year transitional period that will pave way for new constitution and elections. Djotodia indicates he will be redirecting contracts previously favourable to the Chinese to the Western Imperialist businesses. Ultimately this fighting, devastating one of the poorest nations, accelerating a serious humanitarian crisis including widespread abuses, looting and persecution is the face of the inter imperialist struggle between the emergent Chinese imperialism, their proxy the South African Defence Force (SADF) and the Western imperialists. The African Union (AU) has suspended the CAR and will not recognise the rebels further imposing sanctions with the

*Cont pg. 6 Col. 3*

**Defend and Extend the Johnson  
County SEATS Service for the  
Disabled and Elderly!  
Absolutely No Cuts in City or  
County Social Services!  
Reinstate UIHC Patient  
Transport Services!**

As the cuts by the majority Democratic Party Johnson County Board of Supervisors to the vital SEATS para-transit service for the disabled and elderly has proven unpopular in the general community, it appears that the County and municipalities are about to enter into negotiations to reach some agreement. (Press Citizen, Mar 21, 2013, "County, cities to meet and negotiate SEATS funding Wed"). Along with the University of Iowa Hospitals (UIHC) eliminating the Patient Transport Services this year, these austerity measures are becoming a life and death matter as those who most depend on these services are increasingly forced to choose between healthcare, food or housing. This is especially true for those on fixed incomes, such as the elderly. This is a question of quality of life "All of my rides with SEATS are medical, I never use it for anything personal. It's very important for me," Galdner said. "SEATS is my survival." (Press Citizen Feb 17, 2013) And demand is increasing even as cuts are proposed. As far

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## Build a United Front Defense of the Syrian Revolution

**For International Labor defense to stop the massacre of the Syrian workers and masses at the hands of the butcher Al-Assad!**

**Build international demonstrations political strikes and labor actions!**

**US/French/NATO/Russia: Hands off the Middle East and North Africa!**

**No to UN intervention! Defend the Palestinians!**

The Liaison Committee of Communists calls on the international working class, all socialist and leftist organizations to build a united front defense of the Syrian masses, who rose up in 2011 as part of the Arab Spring and have been under brutal attack by the al-Assad regime. We call on workers in the US and on all continents and especially those of Turkey and Lebanon to rally our class's resources in defense of the oppressed Syrian masses.

The life or death situation of Syrians with democratic aspirations could not wait for the emergence of a revolutionary proletarian vanguard party to defend themselves and advance their liberation. The Arab spring moment presented the Syrian masses with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to attempt to put an end to the murderous regime.

Al-Assad maneuvers between imperialisms but always at the expense of the masses. For years he has been the go-to guy for US imperialism which outsourced torture to his secret prisons. At the same time US intelligence and media helped the Zionist gendarmes reign in Syria's nuclear program. US imperialism/NATO/UN have tolerated al-Assad as long as he helped contain the Arab masses in general and the Palestinian revolution in particular.

The US has deliberately stopped the supply of Surface to Air Missiles (SAMs) reaching the Free Syrian Army (FSA) for fear they would be used against Israel. The street fighters remain in large part dependent on munitions captured from Syrian regulars. Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Kerry promises \$60 million of "non lethal aid," dangling a carrot in front of the comprador forces assembling around the leadership of the SNC. Russia and China are supporting Assad and US/Israel are trying to negotiate a solution to prevent a revolution that could destabilize US/Zionist rule in Middle East and North Africa (MENA.) At the same time there remains a layer of social-chauvinists among the left currents who are calling on US, EU, UN to intervene. No to US/NATO intervention!

The international working class has a side in this civil war. Instead of abstentionism or siding with Assad, socialists, anti-capitalists and all workers need to support the turning

Arab street's opposition to dictatorial regimes and against imperialism into labor actions and mobilizations of the entire international working class to support the uprising. Yet despite their pretenses to being the representatives of and defenders of the working class's interests, the American "left," the trade union bureaucracy, social democrats, Stalinists, Castroites, Bolivarians, anarchists and the renegades of Trotskyism have all been silent, are abstentionists or are openly supporting al-Assad.

The working class's interest is in increasing the power of the democratically controlled militias and turning the Local Coordinating Committees (LCCs) into workers councils. As the task for the international working class is to support the armed struggle against the regime, a united front of workers organizations is needed to bloc militarily with the secular opposition to the brutal Syrian Ba'ath regime.



While doing so the working class united front defense of the Syrian Revolution must give absolutely no political support to the comprador bourgeois and petty bourgeois intellectuals, especially the ex-Assad generals who will act to abort the revolution and pave a path to power for the new wanna-be lapdogs of imperialism gathered as the SNC. Likewise the united front should refuse any political support to the Jihadist opposition groups!

They are a reactionary anti-democratic force which is already attempting to impose Sharia law, pull down the FSA flags, arrest people, etc. The task of the workers united front is to elevate the strength and power of the secular and working class forces at the bourgeois comprador and Islamist Jihadists' expense.

It is urgent that the masses break from the dead-end leadership of these elements and that the Syrian and Middle Eastern working class organize as a class and rise to the leadership of these struggles, expanding them into a fight for workers power.

We call on the international working class to mobilize in defense of our class brothers and sisters in Syria and the Middle East against imperialism and their own ruling classes (and for those in the imperialist countries in the first place their own ruling class.) Adopting the proposals emerging from the advanced combat detachments in Libya, Tunisia, and Palestine, our united front must advocate for and build up self-defense pickets of the internationalist working class who initiate actions of solidarity, such as rallies, mass mobilizations, political strikes, and labor interventions in the distribution of military supplies.

In concrete terms an internationalist labor defense of the Syrian masses needs to materially confront imperialism in Syria. In Russia and China this means workers must unite to oppose their own government's support for Assad including taking labor actions to stop arms shipments to the regime. The key tasks of a united front in the US and EU is for workers to organize and provide military aid to the revolution. Without man portable surface to air missiles and other SAMs the masses are at the mercy of Assad's air force.

From the United States to Spain to South Africa to China

*North Korea Cont. from pg 1 col.1*

ready for use, also has ABM missiles deployed in Alaska and Guam. ABM's are not a defensive system but an offensive system based on maintaining First Strike capability. It can hit missiles on their liftoff minutes before they reach the apex of trajectory. In an operational scenario the USA strikes first, and then Russia or China launch with their depleted reaction force, then the ABM can hit the depleted enemy reaction force. This is an offensive system aimed at China, not Korea, which is not a threat to the United States. Japan's current Prime Minister Abe, who hails from a war criminal family, wants to rearm Japan with nuclear weapons. The five permanent members of this UN Security Council which imposed sanctions on North Korea: USA, Russia, China, France and Britain all possess nuclear weapons. The United Nations is a reactionary tool of the major powers to stamp approval on imperialist adventures. When they cannot agree, the individual powers do as they please in any case.

While undoubtedly United States would like to overthrow the North Korean deformed workers state, their larger aims in this whole affair are to assert U.S. imperialist authority in East Asia and the Pacific, primarily against the emerging imperialist power of China. As part of its inter-imperialist war drive against China, these actions by the US are really about encircling and spending China to death. This standoff is less about Korea and more about the struggle between emergent imperialist China and its attempt to control its own back yard and beyond and the dominant imperialist thug attempting to maintain hegemony. Conflict between United States, its Japanese ally, and China spell increased imperialist rivalry as Mother Jones reported in January, 2013 in an article entitled Will China-Japan-US Tensions Sink the Global Economy?:

*"...a potential crisis of far greater magnitude, and potentially far more imminent than most of us imagine. China's determination to assert control over disputed islands in the potentially energy-rich waters of the East and South China Seas, in the face of stiffening resistance from Japan and the Philippines along with greater regional assertiveness by the United States, spells trouble not just regionally, but potentially globally."*

For its part, while capitalist China would like to see the collectivized economy of the DPRK overthrown and capitalism restored, they certainly do not want it done by the United States, as that would place the United States strategically on their border. However, China doesn't want to shed blood for North Korea or mess up their economic relationship with the United States at this time. China owns 54% of the US debt. After the nuclear test in February, the United Nations imposed a new round of sanctions against the DPRK, and Beijing helped create these. The economic sanctions have created conditions of starvation, much like the UN sanctions against Iraq led to the deaths of an estimated 1 million Iraqis from disease and hunger. Embargoes

themselves are an act of war and lead to actual shooting wars. The Korean and Chinese people paid dearly for their revolutions. Their post war revolutionary opposition to US imperialism, which sought to replace Japanese colonialism with American

hegemony, collided with criminal US provocations resulting in a Korean War that left 4 million Koreans and 1 million Chinese dead. The working class must place the blame for the misery of the Korean people squarely on the back of imperialism. And we warn the masses that today the Chinese Stalinists are unwilling to provide the backbone of support for the beleaguered DWS, which is now bristling with false bravado in the face of imperialist war exercises within binocular range. For the Chinese Communist Party a slow restoration of capitalism and the integration and transformation of the DPRK into a semi-colony was on the agenda.

They do not care one wit to defend the workers' property that remains in Korea, in fact they have eyes on it, but they will not tolerate capitalist reintegration directed from the south which leaves the US military on the Yalu River.

## US Provocations Against North Korea

The Wall Street Journal and CNN revealed on April 4th that the Obama administration had created "the playbook," a step-by-step saber-rattling plan that the Pentagon was following. This included deployments to South Korea of nuclear capable B-52 bombers, B-2 bombers, and F-22 Raptor fighters in March. This plan was concocted months ago as the brainstorm of former defense secretary Leon Panetta and approved by current defense secretary Chuck Hagel. The US commander of the Strategic Air Command during both the Korean War and the early Vietnam War years, Curtis Lemay, said he would not leave one brick standing on top of another brick in North Korea...and he did that with a massive bombing campaign. More bombs were dropped by the US on North Korea during the three years of the Korean War, 1950-53, than in all of World War II. No wonder North Korea is a little miffed when the United States flies B52's and B2's over the region.

All this has echoes of the Cuban Missile Crisis when Kennedy brought the world to the brink of a nuclear war in his drive to destroy the Cuban Revolution. And Obama has proven himself as reckless as "the bombing starts in five minutes" Reagan, an outburst in the Cold War aimed against the Soviet degenerated workers state. In a series of deliberate provocations, the United States has engaged in a risky series of actions that apparently they are having second thoughts about now. Amid concerns that the US provocations "could lead to miscalculations" by North Korea, unnamed American officials have stated that Washington was now stepping back. That miscalculation



*U.S. military officers overseeing South Korean executions of civilians "suspected of collaborating" with the "communists," near Taegu, south Korea, April 1951. Photo taken by U.S. Korean Military Advisory Group*



could include considering the 1.1 million strong active DPRK army, their 180,000 special operations forces and their 8 million reservists. The United States may have the technological superiority, but it would be a bloody war.

## US Imperialists are the Real Threat

The imperialist butchers of the United States have a lot of gall condemning North Korea for wanting weapons to defend themselves. After destroying North Korea's 78 cities and thousands of her villages, and killing countless numbers of her civilians, US General Lemay remarked, "Over a period of three years or so we killed off – what – twenty percent of the population." This amounted to an estimated 4 million Korean civilians killed. North Korea actually lost close to thirty percent of its population as a result of US-led bombings in the 1950s, while the United States military and their South Korean allies committed atrocities against civilians, like the now well-known No Gun Ri massacre of men, women and children. These war crimes were continued into the next decade in Vietnam, through executions, napalming, and the burning of Vietnamese villages and the carpet-bombing of North Vietnamese cities. My Lai has become synonymous with 20th Century imperialist war crimes. The US ruling class' criminal actions continued into the 21st Century with their butchery in Afghanistan and Iraq, as documented by Wikileaks. PFC Bradley Manning is being made a scapegoat for these leaks. We demand his freedom.

In World War II, the United States used nuclear weapons for the only time in history, not once, but twice, murdering hundreds of thousands of Japanese civilians. This followed the campaign of fire-bombing (that also took place in Europe), which were just as devastating. The atomic bombing of Japan served no real military purpose and was primarily a warning to the bureaucratically degenerated workers state of the Soviet Union whose Red Army had moved into Northeast China, Korea and Manchuria, liberating it from Japanese oppression. As Admiral William D. Leahy, President Truman's Chief of Staff--and the top official who presided over meetings of both the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Combined U.S.-U.K. Chiefs of Staff, stated:

"[T]he use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material assistance in our war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender. . . ."

## For International Working Class Defense of North Korea Against All Imperialists! For Workers Political Revolution in North Korea! For Socialist Revolution from China to South Korea to Japan!

The international working class has a real interest in defending the collectivized property of the DPRK against the imperialist powers, despite the bureaucratic Stalinist leadership. This is especially true for the American, South Korean, Japanese and Chinese working class. The Obama administration that is threatening the DPRK is also deploying the Coast Guard as scab-herders to break the West Coast ILWU struggle. The international working class is under all-out attack by capital on every continent.

Just as workers would defend the trade unions or a labor strike against the capitalist state and the bosses, despite any bureaucratic leaderships, so should they defend the North Korean workers state without giving one ounce of political support to the North Korean Stalinist regime. Rising to the defense of our working class sisters and brothers of North Korea and the working class gains (collectivized property, planned economy, state monopoly of foreign trade) of the deformed North Korean workers state requires not only rallies and demonstrations, but above all labor actions organized on an international basis. These actions would include labor boycotts, hot-cargoing of military goods, particularly by port and transport workers, as well as labor political strikes against "our" ruling class' war actions. The main enemy is at home! Just as with the heroic victory of the Vietnamese masses against US imperialism, a defeat for US imperialism in East Asia today would help to curb American military ambitions and be a victory for the working class and all the oppressed of the world.

Workers need to call for and try to organize rank-and-file soldiers and sailors committees in the US, South Korean and other imperialist armies that would arrest the officers and cease any conflict, fraternizing with their working class brothers and sisters across the front lines. Workers need to organize revolutionary workers parties in their own countries to organize against their own ruling class and abolish this system of exploitation that breeds poverty, racism and war.

For the working class there is only one way out and that is internationalist to the core. To defend the gains in social production and distribution achieved in the Korean DWS the parasitic bureaucracy must be defeated. Yet the North Korean workers cannot do this alone, as the military actions of imperialism will increase tenfold to stop a working class upsurge in the north. To win the political revolution in the north must link with the workers in the south and complete the expropriation of the bourgeoisie on the Korean peninsula and drive out imperialist forces. This scenario is feared as much by the CCP as it is by the South Korean bourgeoisie, Japanese and American imperialists. All these forces are arrayed against the North Korean workers, whose destiny depends on the ability of the Chinese and American workers to join hands across the Pacific vowing to defeat their own imperialist bourgeoisie and turning the war drive toward WWII into the socialist revolution. **We call on all workers organizations in the USA, JAPAN and CHINA to commence labor actions against the bosses' war drive.** We know that when they kill us in our millions their stock portfolios swell. We know the North Korean and Chinese workers are not our enemies. Our enemies are the big capitalists driving the nation-states toward war.

As Murray Weiss, a spokesman for the Trotskyist majority led by James P. Cannon (Founder of American Trotskyism,) wrote in answer to the "Third Camp" minority:

*"[I]t was this slight misconception as to who was the main enemy that helped to bury the German revolution. 'For the Marxists, the main enemy of the Russian working class, as well as the international working class, is the class enemy.... The Bolshevik-Leninists in the U.S.S.R. will be the best fighters and because of that they will tell the Russian workers the truth: In order to win this war against imperialism we must overthrow the traitor Stalin and appeal to the revolutionary working class of the world to come to our aid.' (our emphasis)*

North Korea cont. from pg. 4:

—“Marxist Criteria and the Character of the War,” [SWP] Internal Bulletin, February 1940”

As capitalism everywhere continues to reel from its systemic crisis, it is ever more vital that the international working class organize struggle against this system of exploitation and war, before the imperialist madmen embroil the world in another major, possibly nuclear, war. We must stop any war escalating into a 3rd World War that will destroy the working class as well as civilization.

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SEATS Cont. from Pg. 1 col.3

as the Communist Workers Group (CWG) is concerned, ***SEATS should be extended as a free, seven-day a week, fully-funded public service county-wide. And UIHC Patient Transport Services needs to be likewise re-instated as a state-wide service as part of a fight for free, quality healthcare for all!***

Don't be fooled by these SEATS funding negotiations! The County Board even admits that they will impose other cuts, drawing from reserves or a general levy tax; placing the burden of austerity primarily on the working class and the poor, who are already taxed enough to pay for these services and are facing increasing hardship as the social gains of the past are rolled back. Instead of jobs, healthcare, education and housing, the Johnson County Board of Supervisors is yet again trying to push through a bond referendum vote in May for a \$40+ million jail and “justice” center; some 80 times over the \$500K of what it would cost for them to maintain current funding subsidy for SEATS. Their solution is incarceration and a system of

injustice that disproportionately affects the Black, Brown and immigrant communities. The governments of the ruling class on the Federal, state and local level are waging a bipartisan assault on our vital public services and social wages and benefits, with the difference between the Democrats and Republicans largely being “how much to cut”? Obama still has cuts to Social Security and Medicare on the table in the Sequestration debate, while Democratic Party Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel is closing more than 50 public schools. The Republicans may be perceived as the hard cops of social reaction, but this is not necessarily the case, as the Democrats have proven more than willing.

For their role in the SEATS cuts, the municipalities are just as responsible as the County and have stated they may impose cuts in the service also. The Coralville City Council in February increased transit fares. Iowa City and Coralville both use Tax-Incremented Financing (TIF), a form of corporate welfare, throwing the burden of funding these essential public services like SEATS on the working and middle classes. This is a corporatist profits racket by the local governments. Coralville uses TIF left and right and city debt is \$14,500 per person. In 2012, Moody downgraded the city's bond ratings. These social services are a vital necessity for society and companies and industries who want public subsidies, who won't pay taxes and try to deny services and otherwise try to put the entire tax burden on the workers need to be ***seized by the workers without compensation and run under workers' control!*** Then it will be possible to open and publish their books, exposing all their flimflams and spins and dodges, and above all, reveal WHO BENEFITS(?) from “business secret” antisocial and criminal activities. This is the kind of worker's nationalization that is needed as opposed to Obama's 2009 bank bailouts in order to save finance capital.

#### Where is Our Labor Leadership?

The local union leadership did send out emails to try to get workers on their (limited) email lists to the Iowa City Council meeting where SEATS was discussed. The only mass mobilization they have attempted though is to mobilize the Democratic Party politicians to dine at labor's table for the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council's (Iowa City Federation of Labor)

annual chili supper on January 17th. This was attended by County Supervisor and former Johnson County Democratic Party Chair Rod Sullivan, the County point man for the SEATS cuts, on the very day that the Press Citizen ran an article announcing the cuts; cuts where 50 AFSCME Local 183 jobs are on the chopping block. It doesn't matter how labor “friendly” a politician is, or whether they are “progressive”, or a member of a union, or for whatever reason they give for budget cuts...there is always a “logic” to cuts. ***A politician making cuts is first and foremost a capitalist politician imposing austerity on the workers, the disabled, the elderly and the poor.*** Abstaining from trying to mass mobilize and organize struggle is itself a betrayal of the labor movement by the union leadership and a tacit acceptance of austerity. The IC Federation of Labor should be an organization to unite and mobilize the entire labor movement, working class and oppressed to fight. This is what a real fighting labor leadership would do.

The current leaders of the unions are opposed to developing a winning strategy to fight back against these attacks. For decades they have been pushing reliance on the Democratic Party, impotent political lobbying, state and federal (NLRB) labor boards, concessions and servile obedience to union-busting laws and injunctions. The union leaders refused to mobilize their members to fight for the Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA), a minimal but supportable reform that would have aided, but not solved the problems of union organizing. ***Revive the demand and Organize struggle for EFCA! Organize the unorganized “wall-to-wall” through labor struggle!*** The perspective of these “Labor Lieutenants of the Capitalist class” is far divorced from how the labor movement was actually built in the first place and is a surefire losing bet. With the percentage of organized workers in the United States declining yet again in 2012 by a significant amount (1% for the private sector), the union tops pro-capitalist, reliance on the Democrats, legalistic, “a fair day's wage” strategy is a miserable historical failure. It should be noted that Chapter 20, the Iowa public sector collective bargaining law was won under a Republican Governor and state

Cont. pg 6 col.1



Senate because public school teachers were engaging in illegal strikes at the time.

The union bureaucracy is a privileged caste within the workers' movement that derives and maintains its privilege by accommodating the entire power of the working class to capital through political subordination to the bosses' governmental apparatus. This is accomplished through the thousands of networks that chain labor's organizations to Big Business's company management, its state, and its political parties. A new generation of worker militants must rise up from the ranks that understand that there can be no compromise between Labor and Capital! ***Power lies with the organized working class in alliance with the oppressed armed with a political program of struggle.*** We would not have a labor movement today if past generations of workers had not defied the union-busting laws, injunctions; defied the strike-breaking cops and hired strikebreakers; had not organized mass pickets that stopped scabs; organized flying pickets and sit-down strikes; or had they relied on Democratic Party politicians instead of their own collective strength. Every strike and fight against lockouts should be organized with military precision: a daily strike paper, medical care, organized pickets and workers defense guard, et al. Militant trade unionists need to build organized fractions/caucuses to replace the servile union leadership and organize struggle! These caucuses could be the springboard for building a fighting workers/labor party that is desperately needed. We need to unite the entire working class by linking organized labor with the broader working class communities. If we want to defend our standard of living and our social services; if we want to fight for jobs, health-

care, housing and education, we must start to organize independent working class struggle, now!

**Defend and extend SEATS, Patient Transport Services and Iowa Care! Rollback cuts to local, state and Federal social services!**

**Defend Social Security and Medicare/Medicaid!**

**For free, quality socialized healthcare for all!**

**Labor unite with the Black, Brown, immigrant communities; with women; with the First Nation/Native American peoples; with unorganized workers, students, the unemployed; the GLBT community and all the oppressed!**

**Build independent action committees of struggle based on workers, students, and the poor!**

**For mass actions and political strikes to defeat austerity! Build an indefinite general strike movement!**

**For a workers' fight for full employment! For a 30 hour workweek at 40 hours pay to spread the work around!**

**For a 100% cost-of-living allowance and full union wages and benefits for all workers!**

**Billions for public works programs! Open the books of industrial and finance capital!**

**Nationalize all major industry and finance without compensation and run under workers control!**

**No support for the Democratic or Republican parties of the bosses!**

**Build a revolutionary, multi-racial Workers Party to organize opposition to capitalist rule!**

**Fight for a workers government! For a democratically planned economy based on human needs!**

**Only workers rule can build a rational and just world!**

**For a new Workers International – The World Party of Socialist**

*C.A.R. Cont. from pg 1 col 2.*

regional body Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) also stating that the rebel regime is illegitimate and proposing an 18 months roadmap that will see the creation of an interim council comprising the rebels, opposition and civic groups.

Despite the South African government's figure of 13 dead, other sources report that among the dozens dead were children shot by the SADF soldiers who were there protecting the oil and mining business interests of top ANC leaders through the Shanduka group and Sasol alongside the Chinese interests. This triggered a revolt in South Africa (SA) that has forced the ANC government to withdraw the remaining soldiers. This is a political defeat for Zuma, China's proxy comprador in Africa, after he had indicated that the soldiers would stay for as long as possible. The opposition alliance has refused to be part of the transitional government accusing the rebels of filling the posts with supporters of the regime thereby ensuring total domination of the transition. The rebels claim that their actions were provoked by the reluctance by Bozize to implement in full the ceasefire accord signed in January this year. It is clear that the rebels had the support of France, which had troops stationed in the capital during the rebel offensive and where a major French company Areva is mining Uranium in the Bakoum region alongside Elf and other monopolies, as reflected by the recent decree to review all trade and investment deals between Bozize and China. The US European Union and France have failed to issue a clear condemnation of the coup

instead focusing on the so called legitimacy of the rebel regime.

The Central African Republic is a very poor country that relies heavily on foreign aid and assistance despite being endowed by minerals such as gold, diamonds and uranium as well as timber and oil which continue to be plundered by various imperialist thieves using weak and corrupt regimes in a country that has witnessed more coups than elections since its independence from France in 1960. Life expectancy in the country is around 40 yrs while the literacy level is very low adding to the brutal existence of the workers, poor farmers and the poor exploited masses.

Djotodia becomes the first Muslim leader in a country with a 15% Muslim population and various tribes divided by the militia leaders who constitute the Seleka alliance. The majority of the people rely on subsistence agriculture with about 74% of workers in the agriculture sector and the mines extracting precious minerals for the capitalist robbers. Years of Military rule have given rise to a very weak workers movement that aligns itself with the state at different periods and ensuring the total subjugation of the workers to the capitalist agenda.

The masses of the CAR are extremely poor and impoverished in spite of the mineral wealth of their country as a result of the brutal exploitation of the resources and workers by various imperialist states using the military and civilian leaders in the same way. Bozize like other military leaders came to power through the help of France but was soon discarded once he started to lean on the Chinese and the South Africans against his erstwhile allies. China is rapidly increasing its Outward Foreign Direct Investment in Africa in direct competition with the Western imperialists. China's imperialist agenda uses the carrot strategy of "mutual development" presented as investment in infrastructure development. But China has the same agenda as the Western Imperialists to massively plunder the resources of the semi colonial states. On the other hand countries like France which have seen their influence and business positions weaken in recent years are now taking an aggressive role to stamp their authority against the growing influence of China and Russia in their former colonies and the fight has taken a very dangerous level as shown by the invasion of Mali to protect their access to resources and a weak and unpopular regime.

In a country ravaged by imperialism, coups and wars the position of the working class and the ordinary poor has been weakened to a large extent with the obvious result being the weak trade unions and the absence of meaningful revolutionary groups to organise the workers, youths, poor peasants, students and the general poor against imperialist plunder and dictatorship. This is the social base that must unite in order to defeat the various militias and foreign troops (imperialist proxies) operating in the country. We call for the creation of a revolutionary workers party which will organize this social base, which will lead an anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist united front of workers organizations to power by creating local struggle committees of poor peasants, workers, youth and the ordinary poor as the organizational basis for a workers and poor peasant's government that will expropriate the imperialist plantations, mines and companies as well as institute real democracy.

**These are then our demands:**

**-Workers, poor peasants and youth organise to defeat imperialism and the military regime that seeks to serve imperialism!**

**-Mobilise for local action committees to spearhead action to defeat the imperialists and their lackeys!**

**-Forward to workers government that expropriates without compensation the imperialist farms, Mines and companies!**

**WE CALL ON WORKERS IN THE IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES USA, FRANCE, AND CHINA: TAKE THE JACK BOOT OF IMPERIALISM OFF OUR NECKS! TURN THEIR COLONIAL WARS AND PROXY WARS IN AFRICA AND ASIA INTO CLASS WARS AT HOME! DEFEAT YOUR RULING CLASS' ECONOMIC AND MILITARY INTERVENTIONS!**

**-For a Socialist revolution in CAR as part of a revolution in the central African states and Africa!**

Sources:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2013/apr/01/central-african-republic-leader-government>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/03/26/michel-djotodia-dissolves-constitution-c-african-republic- n\\_2955356.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/03/26/michel-djotodia-dissolves-constitution-c-african-republic- n_2955356.html)

Statement of the Revolutionary Workers Group of Zimbabwe.

Endorsed by the Liaison Committee of Communists April 7, 2013

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*Syria Cont from pg. 2*

and Syria, the working class is under all-out assault by capital. Build independent working class opposition to the brutal dictatorship in Syria and to the imperialist paymasters who subject to masses to slaughter. Build this as the defense of our class as a whole.

Defend the Syrian masses! Form up local committees, link them nationally and internationally and take action to provide assistance to the secular and independent working class fighters. Contact the LCC to help initiate this united front.

Statement of the Liaison Committee of Communists

Integrating the RWG (Zim), CWG (A/NZ), CWG (USA)

March 1, 2013

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## **Labor Leadership Refuses to Fight Democratic Party Cuts to SEATS:**

### **Build a class struggle leadership of our unions!**

For an all-out mobilization of labor to defend SEATS paratransit!

The following is a CWG united front call to defend Johnson County SEATS paratransit service distributed via email to officials/delegates of the Iowa City Federation of Labor, the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council (CLC), as well as a reply from and a CWG reply back to an official of that labor body. The united front leaflet was also sent to the Socialist People's Party (Iowa), the anarchist Wild Rose Collective, the Quad City Federation of Labor (AFL-CIO CLC) and a leader of the local International Socialist Organization (ISO). Also included is correspondence between an official of the City Fed who refused to take up the call to fight and the CWG.

*Cont bottom pg 9*



## **An Injury to One is an Injury to All!**

### **Free Lynne Stewart: Save Her Life - Release Her Now!**

Well-known leftist attorney Lynne Stewart, an advocate for the oppressed, remains unjustly imprisoned as she faces Stage Four breast cancer. The Federal government continues its vendetta against this dedicated and courageous woman as they refuse to release her to seek necessary medical treatment. As the linked petition below states:

"In her current setting, where trips to physicians involve attempting to walk with 10 pounds of shackles on her wrists and ankles,



with connecting chains, Lynne Stewart has lacked ready access to physicians and specialists under conditions compatible with medical success. It can take weeks to see a medical provider in prison conditions. It can take weeks to report physical changes and learn the results of treatment; and when held in the hospital, Lynne has been shackled wrist and ankle to the bed."

#### **This amounts to state murder of a leftist political activist.**

Lynne Stewart was targeted by the U.S. government for daring to provide legal defense, one of the more important democratic rights, for Omar Abdel-Rahman. Her prosecution, in the wake of the racist anti-Arab hysteria of 9/11 and the increasing repressive measures of the U.S. capitalist state, was designed to curtail dissent, silence vigorous defense lawyers, and instill fear in any who would challenge the capitalist system by standing up for the oppressed. We clearly see the real Obama Justice Department policy in action here as the same words and deeds of the Bush regime. Words and deeds that were denounced internationally as crimes against human rights at the time.

Lynne Stewart received a 28-month sentence in October 2006. After years of post-conviction freedom, her bail was revoked arbitrarily and her imprisonment ordered precluding the surgery she had scheduled in a major New York hospital. The government appealed her original sentence, and in 2009 Lynne was sentenced to 10 years in federal prison in Carswell, Texas. Since her imprisonment her urgent need for surgery was delayed 18 months – so long, that the operating physician pronounced the condition as "the worst he had seen."

The Communist Workers Group demands the immediate release of Lynne Stewart! We encourage all those who stand for social justice to take up her defense as the defense of the rights of the working class and all the oppressed. We do encourage signing the petition below. But more than that, we call on organized labor and the international working class

to come to her defense, starting with education rallies, directing labor's resources and fighting to mobilize the power of the working class in action to free Lynne Stewart and all class war prisoners!

Petition:  
<http://www.change.org/petitions/petition-to-free-lynne-stewart-save-her-life-release-her-now-2>  
*Justice for Lynne Stewart:*  
<http://lynnestewart.org/>

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### **Two Decades of Police Torture in Chicago: For Labor Defense of the Black, Brown and Immigrant Communities Against Racist Police Terror!**

On April 1, 2013, a three judge panel of the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the 54 month prison sentence for the perjury and obstruction of justice conviction of notorious former Chicago police commander Jon Burge. Burge has now been linked to at least 120 documented cases of torture of African American suspects over a 20 year period. Burge was the command-

ing officer of the violent crimes section of the Area 2 precinct of the Chicago Police Department located on the South Side. His career was marked by accusations from over one hundred individuals who claimed that he and officers in the violent crimes section tortured suspects in order to obtain confessions throughout the 1970s and 1980s.

Introducing the 23 page decision, Judge Ann Williams, the only African American judge in the history of the Seventh Circuit wrote:

"Former Chicago Police Commander Jon Burge presided over an interrogation regime where suspects were suffocated with plastic bags, electrocuted until they lost consciousness, held down against radiators, and had loaded guns pointed at their heads during rounds of Russian roulette. The use of this kind of torture was designed to inflict pain and instill fear while leaving minimal marks. When Burge was asked about these practices in civil interrogatories served on him years later, he lied and denied any knowledge of, or participation in, torture of suspects in police custody. But the jury heard overwhelming evidence to contradict that assertion and convicted Burge for obstruction of justice and perjury."

Burge's crimes are further summarized by the The Peoples Law Offices of Chicago:

"...witnesses at trial detailed a record of decades of abuse that is unquestionably horrific. The witnesses described how they were suffocated with plastic bags, electrocuted with homemade devices attached to their genitals, beaten, and had guns forced into their mouths during questioning. Burge denied all allegations of abuse, but other witnesses stated that he bragged in the 1980s about how suspects were beaten in order to extract confessions. Another witness testified that Burge told her that he did not care if those tortured were innocent or guilty, because as he saw it, every suspect had surely committed some other offense anyway."

This is not justice. Burge was never charged with police brutality. Fired in 1993 over the allegations, the Office of Professional Standards never brought





Black and Brown self defense is put on the agenda by the increasing brutality that follows from the deepening austerity. We must learn from the brutal bi-partisan repression and murder of our brothers and sisters from the Black Panther Party, Brown Berets and American Indian Movements in the late 1960's and early 1970's. The oppressed communities must not be allowed to stand alone, labor must step up to the plate. To defeat racist cop terror multi-racial labor based self defense needs to be organized out of every union hall and working class church and community organization.

Labor, Black and Brown activists in the Bay Area mobilize for labor defense of the oppressed, calling for self-defense guards against racist police violence and for multi-racial workers tribunals to bring criminal cops to justice. We join their call for labor political strikes against cop terror under the slogan, "They shoot us down! We shut them down!" Recently Labor, Black, and Brown activists garnered the support of ILWU Local 10 and the Black Riders of Oakland to shutdown the Vallejo City Council in protest of the murder of Mario Romero. Transitional organizations uniting the multi-racial working class in self defensive struggle need to be built everywhere, linking the social power of organized labor to the oppressed communities in common struggle, as part of the fight against the brutal system of capitalist exploitation and racist oppression.

**NO STOP AND FRISK! DEFEAT RACIAL PROFILING!**

**COPS OUT OF SCHOOLS! COPS OFF PUBLIC TRANSIT!**

**Organize Political Strikes Against Racist Cop & Vigilante Killings!**

**Organize Multiracial Labor/Community Self Defense Guards!**

**For Mutiracial Labor Tribunals to Bring Police Killers/Torturers to Justice!**

Sources:

<http://peopleslawoffice.com/jon-burge-conviction-upheld-by-federal-appeals-court/>

<http://cwgusa.wordpress.com/category/racist-cop-terror/>

Statement of the Communist Workers Group April 7, 2013

[www.cwgusa.com](http://www.cwgusa.com)

[cwgclasswar@gmail.com](mailto:cwgclasswar@gmail.com)

Unions refuse to fight for SEATS Cont. from pg 7 col 2

SEATS is a Johnson County Iowa run transportation that is vital to the elderly and the disabled and has been in existence since the 1970's. The municipalities contract with the county to operate SEATS, with the county traditionally subsidizing the difference between what the cities fund and the cost. The Democratic Party County Board of Supervisors are cutting all county subsidies to this service and pushing this cost onto the municipalities; dramatically the first year and then eventually completely. Most likely this will result in a degradation of this critical service. Coralville has already raised transit rates. This has degenerated into a petty quarrel between the municipalities and the county. From the standpoint of the working class, the disabled and the elderly, there is no side to take in this fight. Curse on all their houses! The labor movement and the working class needs to enter the arena and lead the fight against all those who would impose austerity! SEATS needs to remain a centrally-run, county-wide, fully-funded service. In fact, as demand is increasing, it should be expanded to a 24 hour, seven day

charges, he was never prosecuted and the Superior court allowed the statute of limitations to expire. It was only through a series of civil lawsuits by the victims that this torture ever came to light, and that Burge was eventually convicted of perjury and obstruction of justice for lying in sworn testimony. There is no justice in the capitalist system of injustice for the oppressed!

Only the most flagrant abuses of police brutality and terror come to light, while the Black, Brown and immigrant communities face daily harassment, beatings and murder at the hands of the racist cops. Rodney King, Oscar Grant, John Deng, Alan Blueford, Richard Rodriguez, Kenneth Harding Jr., Mario Romero, Jared Huey, Jeremiah Moore, Anton Barrett, Ernesto Duenas, Guy Jarreau, Kimani Gray... the list goes far back and it continues to go on and on. Recent studies by the Malcolm X Grassroots movement reveals a black or brown man is killed by the cops every 28 hours.

The state is the enforcement mechanism of the capitalist class. The racist police violence is not some mistake, or bad policy or the actions of a few "bad apple" cops. Stop and Frisk is the institutionalization of racist police terror, harassment and brutality! This is the method the capitalists use to keep the oppressed down. Racism against the Black, Brown and immigrant communities serves the ruling class by creating divisions among the multi-racial working class. The same cops that terrorize the oppressed also can and will be used to break labor struggles. Just ask ILWU (Longshoremen) Local 21 in Longview, WA how they were hounded and harassed by the police in their struggle for a fair contract. The police are not workers! They are the armed fist of the capitalist state! They are the enemies of the labor movement, the working class and the oppressed!

The answer is not impotent police review boards or police monitoring (Copwatch), although certainly police crimes should be exposed to the public to the fullest extent possible. What is needed is to link the defense of the Black, Brown and immigrant communities to the social power of the organized labor movement. ILWU Local 10 in the Bay Area engaged in a one day action to shut down the port in protest against the police murder of Oscar Grant.

***"But believe it or not you won't find it so hot if  
you ain't got the do re mi"***

**PUBLIC WORKERS AND PRIVATE WORKERS  
UNITE!  
ORGANIZE THE UNORGANIZED! JOBS WITH  
UNION BENEFITS FOR ALL!  
HANDS OFF SOCIAL SECURITY! DEFEND AND  
EXPAND MEDICARE!  
HANDS OFF DEFINED PENSION PLANS!**

President Barack Obama, doing his part to impose the bosses' austerity plan, on Friday April, 5, proposed to cut social security and Medicare benefits in an unprecedented historic deal with the Republicans. While this single component of the austerity plan targets elderly and those dependent on social security, these actions are aimed at the entire working class. This long-term attack on the solvency of workers' retirement comes in many forms. While Republicans salivate over their dream of privatizing social security, the Democratic Governor of California Jerry Brown has led the drive to cut public workers' pension benefits and even advocated privatization, as part of his 12 point plan. The attack on Social Security and on defined pension plans are an attempt to liberate the billions held in these plans to allow the individual worker investor to be fleeced of her/his retirement by the sharks on Wall St. Brown insisted the workers must take on the risk of the market! The global crisis of capitalism is exploding the dreams of the commodity traders as Wall St. teeters on the brink of an abyss of fictitious capital imploding beneath the dysfunctionality of the anarchy of production—the 'free market.'

Public workers of California and the multi-million Californian working class are bludgeoned with the austerity at many levels. Cut backs in social services, furloughs of public workers for three years, increased medical insurance contributions compound wage cuts and job losses; working families suffer from record levels of home foreclosures, spiraling public education tuition costs and declining educational resources overall. California, according to the International Monetary Fund's list of U.S. States and world countries by Gross Domestic Product, is the 8th largest economy in the world, excluding the United States as a whole, or 9th, or eight behind the USA.

As a result, the system which provides public services to this massive population is enormous, providing wages for and related benefits to 1.5 million public workers and their families. So when workers around the country are hit with fiscal troubles, the effect in CA is reverberated tenfold, like a socioeconomic earthquake that jostles every corner of the economy. And like during a real earthquake, some are just jostled and shaken and others fail under the effect. California's own fiscal woes

The public pension programs which serve the public employees is equally sizable and complicated. CA has 3 large public retirement systems, one for teachers (CalSTRS), one for the university system (UCRP), and one for other public employees (CalPERS). In addition, there are 24 other independent county or city retirement systems throughout the state. CalPERS is the largest.

Although not a lucrative proposition, CA public workers are investing their entire retirement package in retirement fund futures, and being told that just tweaking the system here and there will ensure their retirement base. What they are not told is that capitalism does not work; it ebbs and flows only to benefit the people who can absorb and speculate on its fluctuations. For most, whose paychecks fund this retirement system, capitalism's crisis-ridden nature is concretely reflected in the burgeoning everyday reality of an underfunded retirement systems, thanks to a series of catastrophic blunders and miscalculations. The elected CALPERS leadership believed the "boiler room" hype and forfeited the public workers' future to the big banksters. The losses sustained by buying into the real estate bubble only compounded the effect of the previous under funding by the state during bull market years. In the last contract the Union leaders gave away additional worker contributions to the pension fund to make up for losses in the market (losses for the workers but not for the banksters!) Public worker union leaders encouraged the membership to "Share the Pain," rushing to help make the workers pay for the capitalists' crisis.

On 2/21/2013, State Controller John Chiang released a new report showing the unfunded actuarial accrued liability of providing health and dental benefits for state retirees is projected to be \$63.84 billion over 30 years (which is only about 2 billion a year—less than Schwarzenegger gave away reducing the new vehicle registration fee) :

"The current pay-as-we-go model of funding retiree health benefits is short-sighted and a recipe for undermining the fiscal health of future generations of Californians,...However, today's challenge won't necessarily become tomorrow's crisis if policymakers can muster the fiscal discipline to invest now so that we can pay tens of billions of dollars less later.

*"Recognizing that fully funding the health and dental benefits obligation is unlikely given the State's tight budget, Controller Chiang noted that even incremental steps toward pre-funding the obligation would significantly reduce the State's liability. For example, if the State pre-funded just 10 percent of its obligation, it would only need to pay \$170 million more than its current pay-as-you-go contribution. However, that additional payment would shave \$2.74 billion off of the State's unfunded liability."*

*"Pre-funding 25% of its obligations would cost the State \$420 million more than the pay-as-you-go contribution, but would reduce the total unfunded liability by \$6.63 billion. In addition to cutting costs by pre-funding the obligation, Chiang said the State should continue to be aggressive in its efforts to contain health care costs by promoting prevention and wellness and innovations in health care delivery. "Improving the health of state employees will not only lead to a more productive workforce, but also to substantial taxpayer savings"*

Of course, another solution would be to seize the retirement systems and operate them under 100% workers control, rather than letting political interests' and cronies' policy take us to the breaking point. The current model is not sustainable. Nor is the economic system it is based on. Even



democratic workers control of the pension system would be no guarantee of a sustainable model as long as the pension fund is trapped inside the unraveling capitalist system.

In spite of the Dow Jones recent share price recovery the markets are in fact in a bear market on the precipice of an abyss. Workers need a fully-funded system with guarantees and not one influenced by the peaks and valleys of stock prices and their manipulations by speculators and gamblers. There are over 100 billionaires in the State of CA. There is no reason public workers should fund the capitalist class' excesses by pouring money from our pension funds into their stock market Ponzi scheme. As pensions are nothing more than deferred wages, we demand our employers guarantee and fully fund pensions for all. We must link this demand to the fight for jobs for all a full union benefits. When the bosses say, they "can't do that" we say, "what are you good for?" "Get-outta-here-ya-bum!"

In his February, 2013 monthly report, State Controller Chiang covered California's cash balance, receipts and disbursements of January, 2013. Total revenues for the first month of the calendar year were \$4.3 billion above (39.1 percent) estimates found in the Governor's proposed 2013-14 State budget! Personal and corporate income taxes exceeded projections 45–55%, whereas sales tax revenues fell below estimated projections by 27%.

*"Last month's revenues were by far the highest...seen in any January for the past decade. Along with increased auto sales, rising home values, and more construction, it signals that California may be entering an era where we can govern outside of crisis," Chiang said. "However, given our state's troubled history with boom-or-bust revenue cycles, this good news must be tempered with increased fiscal discipline in how we interpret and budget January's collections."*

What Chiang is actually saying is, 'I work for the bourgeoisie and no matter how much tax revenue we collect we're still here to kick the workers in the ass as they head into contract negotiations.' What Chiang failed to mention was that the vast increase can be attributed to the unprecedented profits collected by the wealthy and corporations. Sales tax receipts, which were less than expected, represent the purchasing power of the entire state, including all the furloughed, laid off, homeless and unemployed whose purchasing power has dramatically declined, as well as the consumption of the wealthiest sectors, whose share of the economy has increased.

According to real news.com (4/5/2013), the world's number of billionaires has increased by 210 since their last count. The nominal 1,426 billionaires in the world is explained as an undercount, given that billionaires have professionals hiding their assets. In the US alone, last year saw an all time record 800 billion dollars in increased profits among the aggregate wealth of very wealthy, whereas your average worker cannot garner any economic performance at all on any of their meager holdings.

In fact CA has been dubbed *"the billionaire capitol of the world"* with over 100 identified billionaires, as of January, 2013. This is up from previous year's reports of 80–90 of them. So yes, Mr. Chiang, with Proposition 30, the state has seen a vast increase in individual and corporate tax revenues, because the wealthiest people and corporations in the country are sweeping up every centime of cash there is to be had, earned or gotten by other means. But let there be no mistake, these increased tax revenues have nothing to do with working people except that it was our, ability to produce profit for the bosses that enriched the wealthy in the first place, and do not reflect an increase in workers' fiscal well-being.

Failed stimulus programs such as the CA's Enterprise Zone (EZ) corporate tax break program were designed, in theory, to create

new jobs. But in practice, corporations are exploiting the program to enrich themselves instead. The EZ program, which incentivizes companies to close up shop, fire all their workers and relocate to another part of the state, is costing CA \$700 million a year, and has resulted in few, if any, net new jobs created. (CLF newsletter 4/5/2013). With the super rich overseeing the super rich why should any of these programs succeed, ever? Corporate incentive programs do not work because the only incentive corporations respond to is their bottom line and that of their shareholders', while they rob localities of tax revenue.

Additionally, according to the CA Budget Task Force, CA has the largest number of Medicaid enrollees, 7.5 million, and, among six study states, has the highest percentage of its population enrolled in Medicaid, 29 percent. But CA's annual spending per enrollee, \$3,364, is the lowest among the six study states and well below the national average of \$5,337, and its Medicaid spending as a percent of state General Fund spending is below the national average. Still, Medicaid spending has grown at 6 percent per annum since 2006. So with fewer jobs, growing costs and less revenue in the State, the federal cuts are just salt on the already gaping wound.

### **Impact of the sequestration and related proposed deficit solutions**

With the sequestration and the most recent attacks on social security and Medicare, President Obama is forcing the working class to yet again stoically bear the burden of diminished access to jobs, education, health care and retirement benefits. All the while expecting their voter loyalty to his party!!

Obama's "nice guy" pose doesn't fool anyone who knows the Republicans will never agree to raise taxes on themselves and their golf buddies. Obama's approach shows his actual class allegiances.

*"...this is rotten public policy, and all those political reasons pale in comparison to the damage he is doing here. With the demise or curtailment of most pensions, the drop in family wealth due to the collapse of the housing sector in 2008, the big unemployment numbers cutting into many families' life savings, the flattening or decrease of wages for most workers, and the inflation in many essentials among those who are working driving down the ability to save for retirement, this is the absolute last time we should be looking at cutting incomes for retirees."* (Common Dreams 4/5/2013)

On his own initiative he has offered to link future social benefit increases to the chained Consumer Price Index (CPI)—read bogus purchase price index! The Chained CPI is the worst of all his attacks, as it disproportionately affects the elderly. The proposal is to reduce the adjustment for inflation, a cost of living allowance he is skewing. Thus he robs the social security beneficiaries something, not even Bush could get away with. He is a Thatcherite wet dream. The justification that people tend to buy lower priced items when their income is reduced by inflation or by any other means is vintage Thatcher. But there is no cheaper or generic version of health care and profits require that patients' costs are rising more rapidly than inflation.

The McKesson Corp., based in San Francisco, dis

tributes wholesale medicines, medical supplies, and computer systems for doctors. The head of McKesson, Mr. John Hammergren, earned last year \$131 million dollars, according to Ralph Nader in WSJ 4/16. "That is the equivalent of about \$63,000 an hour, or \$10,000 more than the annual median household income in the U.S. Meanwhile, some of this country's lowest-paid workers—those on minimum wage—made just \$15,080 annually at \$7.25 an hour. Mr. Hammergren had surpassed that amount by 9:15 a.m. on his first workday of the year."

Mr. Hammergren is the highest paid CEO in the U.S. The McKesson Corp. will substantially benefit from Obamacare. Maybe Mr. Hammergren can ask for a raise....(Earl Gilman reports on April 16, 2013)

Your average senior citizen lives in poverty, and has a median income of \$20,000. 70% of many senior incomes are derived from Social Security. 20 – 40% of all senior expenses are for health care. So when Obama reduces the inflation adjustment index for these folks, assuming they are purchasing lower cost items, this leaves seniors out of luck and resources to cover their living expenses. Isn't this out of whack! Obama's plan compounds the short fall for seniors right when banks are offering record low interest on savings accounts and CD's. This negative compounding of future cost of living adjustments will over the coming decades defund social security in real terms, driving millions more into homelessness and poverty during their "golden years." He is tightening the screws to force the entire nation to play the stock market no matter the cost in human life.

Furthermore, this places the burden, directly and most often, on their working class children. Their children have sustained massive cuts to their base resources and support services via the joblessness, the austerity and sustained furloughs and service cuts in the past few years. Again, with such an enormous population, California has felt the effects of every national policy decision like a knife cutting its throat, while the political parties are unwilling to make the 100 billionaires and thousands of multi-millionaires of the state pay. Where we part company with the reformist tax the rich schemes like Prop 30 is that we really do intend to take the wealth from the malefactors and put it entirely under the control of the workers and the oppressed. Who will do this? The bourgeois parties never will. We need a workers' government that rests upon the power of the workers state. To think that appropriating the necessary funds can be accomplished otherwise is cruel delusion that we will expose. Trade union leaderships who mount pathetic campaigns that are so cynical and so obviously designed to fall flat never will enforce any 'equal pain' on the ruling rich. Neither will a whole host of self styled socialist "revolutionists" who toady up to the official leaderships and pedal reformist versions of the same tax the rich campaign.

With all the hype about the potential dramatic and sweeping effects of the sequestration, it has now been reduced to a beltway political argument for many commentators. They make much too flip a judgment and too soon. According to the Huffington Post (4/6/2013), its effects will be real and lasting for years to come, especially for working Americans:

"Organizations and companies have begun laying off workers, while many more have decided not to staff vacant positions. Schools on military bases are contemplating four-day weekly schedules. Food pantries have closed, as have centers that provide health services. Farmers have been forced to go without

milk production information, causing alarm in the dairy industry and the potential of higher milk prices. Workers at missile-testing fields are facing job losses. Federal courts have closed on Fridays. Public Broadcasting transmitters have been shut down. Even luxury cruises are feeling the pinch, with passengers forced to wait hours before debarking because of delays at Customs and Immigration. Yes, sequestration is creating the possibility of another poop cruise. On the national level, sequestration may be defined by canceled White House tours and long lines at airports that never materialized. But on the local level, it is beginning to sting."

Every geographic area of the country has been affected, and with a big impact on health care delivery and education, and particularly programs targeting low income and needy individuals and families. (See pg. 1 Defend the SEATS program Johnson County.)

*"Of the more than \$2.5 trillion to date in projected 10-year budget savings, nearly 80 percent would result from spending cuts. The rest would derive from tax increases on high incomes that became law on Jan. 1, in the tax agreement that the two parties reached at year-end when the efforts for a broader deficit-reduction deal collapsed. Mr. Obama's proposals to reduce deficits \$1.8 trillion more over a decade track his offer to Mr. Boehner, adjusted for the roughly \$600 billion in higher taxes that became law in January. He will propose more than \$600 billion in new revenues — his last offer had called for \$1.2 trillion in taxes — mostly by limiting to 28 percent the deductions that individuals in higher tax brackets can claim. Congress has ignored that idea in past years.*

*"Deficits would be reduced another \$930 billion through 2023 as a result of spending cuts and other cost-saving changes to domestic programs, and \$200 billion more due to reduced interest payments on the federal debt. Mr. Obama's proposed spending reductions include about \$400 billion from health programs and \$200 billion from other areas, including farm subsidies, federal employee retirement programs, the Postal Service and the unemployment compensation system. In Medicare, the savings would mostly come from payments to health care providers, including hospitals and pharmaceutical companies, but Mr. Obama also proposes that higher-income beneficiaries pay more for coverage."* (New York Times, 4/5/2013).

The direct impact of sequestration on California represents a "mere" \$12 billion in federal revenue for the State (Reality Check 2/27/2013). But look at the specifics: It's millions in cuts to education, both primary and secondary and head start programs, cuts to education for kids with disabilities, cuts in funding for environmental protection, and cuts to the military/defense infrastructure. If you parse these program cuts, they are mostly benefits to working families and low income households. And because California has such a large pool of public employees, many of them will be deeply affected by these cuts. Paylines are removed. Attrition heaps out of job classification work on the retained employees.

Impact of progressive budget cuts on California's system of Higher Education

In a report by the nonprofit Public Policy Institute of California, the impact of \$1.5 billion in state budget cuts between 2007 and 2012 on California Community Colleges, the nation's largest system of higher education, was documented in searing detail. (Sacramento Bee 3/26/2013)

"During that period, enrollment within the 112-campus



system dropped from 2.9 million to 2.4 million students,.... The enrollment declines were steepest among students returning to school after an absence and first-time college students,.... Enrollment of first-time students fell 5 percent even as the number of high school graduates in California rose 9 percent. 'The decline in access of first-time students is troubling, given California's long-standing need to increase college-going rates for new high school graduates, who are the workforce for the future,' said PPIC researcher Sarah Bohn, the report's co-author."

*"California's community college system, which is known for its low fees and open-access policies, is open to nearly all adults, but in recent years campuses have been forced to turn away hundreds of thousands of students who couldn't get into the classes they wanted. Across the system, the number of academic-year course offerings dropped 21 percent, summer classes fell 60 percent and class sizes swelled, researchers said. All types of courses were cut, but the drop was most significant for non-credit courses for enrichment or remediation."*

California's public university system has long been the envy of other states and has a worldwide reputation for high quality education. Repeated budget cuts have reduced what it can offer and has damaged this reputation in perpetuity. Private corporations pretend to shower largess on the California's Universities. In reality they get research department graduate student slaves to do basic science for them on the public dime. Does the public hold the paper on the resulting patents and intellectual property? It does not! Graduate students need an organizing offensive and the backing of the mobilized California workers movement to defeat the privatization drive and the cuts to research grants imposed by the austerity whether by Brown's budget or Obama's sequestration. Then we have another scam is the kind perpetrated by California Regent and investment banker Mr. Richard Blum (or should we say Mr. Feinstein) also know as good old fashioned graft.

All these cuts to education, affect the working class disproportionately, after they have already been furloughed, laid off and told that their children will have to start going to school 4 days a week. And they have been spoon-fed the dream that increasing taxes on the rich (the recent prop 30) will solve the chronic economic problems of the state, as those same rich folks made unprecedented financial gains in the last year. So now workers kids get a lousy primary education, get poor healthcare and little access to higher education. The community college system has traditionally been a point of access to higher education for those who could not afford a state college or university, and are now likely to receive little or no unemployment or retirement benefits if they actually can find a job!

State Workers attacked doubly in this model

In November, 2012, California Democrats, with the support of labor, picked up a supermajority in both houses of the state Legislature, a surprise outcome that gives their party the ability to unilaterally raise taxes and leaves Republicans essentially irrelevant in Sacramento. This is the first time in 80 years that one party

controlled 2/3rds of both houses.

When combined with the passage of Proposition 30, the governor's budget-balancing tax measure, the results offer lawmakers "a great opportunity to begin a new chapter in California," according to Senate President pro tem Steinberg. He called a supermajority "a tremendous responsibility," and one that is "humbling to have." "California is back on track...we have come through this very tough period. When I started the deficit was \$42 billion," he said. *"Now we've made the awful cuts, and the voters have given us not only the tools to say no more cuts, but also to begin to focus on some positive agendas ... It will be very different to govern without a constant crisis."* (SF Gate 11/7/2012) The pomposity of these boasts and the conceit is flabbergasting.

So ostensibly this gave the Democrats the power to do all the right things for the State, right? Of course California is still buckling under years of fiscal mismanagement, the burden of prop 13, a giant and endless tax shelter for land-rich corporations and the controversial ballot initiative process, which is, well, controversial.

A recent Associated Press article states *"2011: Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown completes contract negotiations with all remaining state employee unions, requiring workers to pay a greater share of their pension cost. In October, Brown proposes a 12-point pension plan that would raise the retirement age to 67 for new employees who are not public safety workers and require state and local employees to pay more toward their retirement and health care. He is seeking to place future retirees into a "hybrid" system that blends pensions with a 401(k)-style plan. He*

*seeks to end so-called pension "spiking" that lets employees boost their payouts by including overtime and other benefits, and end the practice of buying additional service credits".* What the Associated Press did not tell you is that you have to be a member of the salaried managerial elite or the armed thugs of the state to spike your pension. These costs are loaded on working families while the pay freeze, hiring freeze and furloughs continued. Missing from the who the what the when and the why in the



Associated press article are the tens of thousands of contract employees whose on the job responsibilities are equal in every way to those of unionized state workers but whose compensation packages correspond to the moth eaten pay envelopes of the independent at will contractors. They may sometimes make the equivalent in cash wages but they never get vested in defined benefit pension programs or medical retirement benefits. The contracting adds another layer of administrative duplication and siphoning off of funds to reward contracting firms (read political favorites) in an ongoing anti-union drive to privatize government functions.

Additionally, Brown's pension reform act for CalPERS specifies an employee contribution increase of 1 – 1.5%, puts a cap on the amount of compensation that can count towards retire

ment benefits, denies felons their pension benefits, and further limits post-retirement reemployment.

So California public employees and their bank accounts are being attacked by federal and state policy makers, being blindsided by their ineffective unions and put on the chopping block again and again, all the while being required to show up and keep the entire state from crumbling into utter chaos and pandemonium. California state workers need to fight back and take back control of our unions to make them properly work on our behalf, with accountability and recallability of all elected officers, with fiscal transparency and class political independence. The unions need to fight austerity by revealing all State and business secrets. We say open the books, the reality of tax loopholes and give-aways to corporate and wealthy interests are only the surface manifestations of a government by and for the 1% and their corrupted servants. State workers need to build action committees and class struggle caucuses if they are to unite all public workers and begin to win the conditions, benefits and compensation we all deserve. Workers! We need our own political party, a fighting labor party not beholden to the interest of any other social class, but a tribune of all the people that fights for a government of the workers and the oppressed!

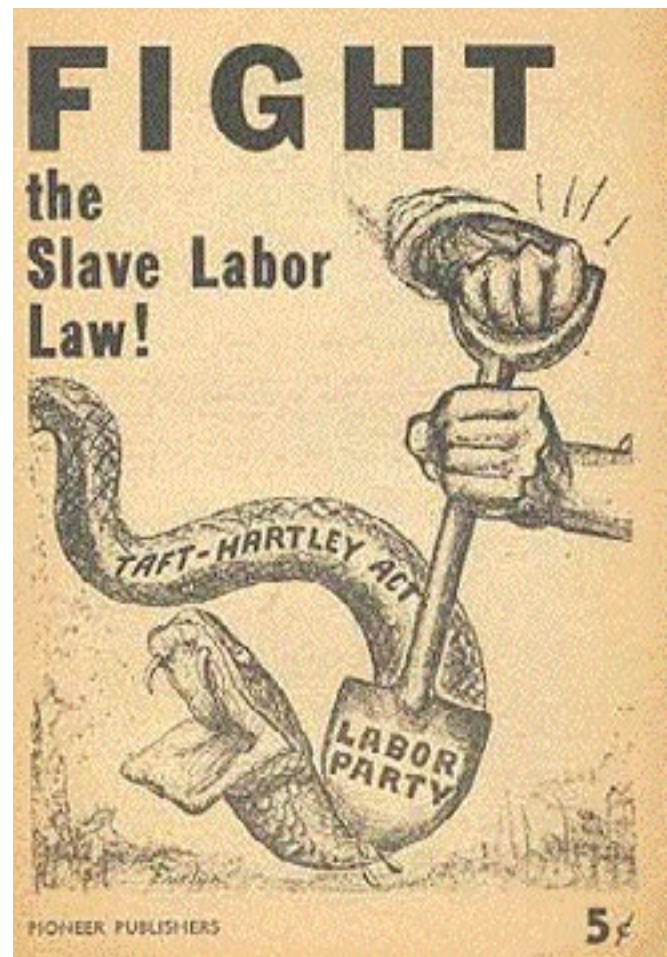
### **HANDS OFF SOCIAL SECURITY! DEFEND AND EXPAND MEDICARE!**

- No more budget cuts on the backs of the elderly, the students or public workers!
- No chained CPI reductions!
- Provide universal health care coverage, socialize medicine!
- Nationalize the insurance companies, Big Pharma and the for-profit medical corporations, without reimbursement to the big shareholders and run 100% under workers control. Put private insurance companies out of the medical industry.
- Demand a fully-funded retirement system for all. Put private business out of the pension business!
- Defend Public education. Reinstate all funding to higher education and make higher education free for all! Reorganize the education system under parent, teacher, student & school worker control.
- Reinstate funding to head start, arts, sports music, science education.
- Fully fund nutritious student diets and provide on site medical resources.
- Cops out of schools!
- Initiate action committees at all work sites and schools!
- Build inter union organizing committees! Unite private and public sector workers against the austerity and for workers power!
- Rebuild the unions! Organize the Unorganized! Pass EFCA! Defeat Taft Hartley and other anti-union legislation in the streets!

- **Initiate class struggle caucuses inside our unions to fight uncompromisingly for the political independence of the working class and for our own political party and program!**
- **Create Jobs for all!**
- **Pay 40 hour wages for 30 hours of work so everyone can have both a job and a living, at union wages and benefits! Allocate billions for public works not one cent for imperialist military adventures.**
- **For a sliding scale of wages and prices set by worker run price committees.**
- **Say no to compromising the real needs of the masses for the frivolous wants of the wealthy few!**

For public workers unions to survive they must break from the Democrats and take the lead in reviving the labor movement by embracing workers in the private sector and taking the lead in organizing the unorganized. Both the contract workers in public works and workers in private industry must be organized to win union wages and benefits for all! Public workers can win when we make real the slogan

**“An Injury to one is and injury to all.”**





## Zimbabwe: Boycott the Referendum! Break with the Popular Front!

Zimbabwe is going through a process of drafting and voting on a new constitution. It is a total fraud put forward by the ruling ZANU-PF and its Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) minority partner in the power sharing government. Nothing will change, the ruling class will continue to profit from doing deals with imperialism to plunder Zimbabwe's resources, and the masses will continue to starve or leave in search of work. The left has been dragged behind this constitutional process as fig leaf covering this naked exploitation. The reformist left, the unions and NGOs have been 'consulted' and made minor amendments in the hope that it will fool the workers and oppressed. But this has not fooled the masses.

The global crisis of capitalism means that capitalism can only survive by making the workers pay for the crisis. The masses are ready to rise up as they are doing in other parts of Africa, Asia and the Middle East. But these struggles are being betrayed by national regimes acting as the agents of imperialism. What is missing is a genuine revolutionary Marxist party to act as the guide to mass action.

We report here on the struggle of the Revolutionary Workers Group to build a united front to boycott the Referendum on the Draft Constitution to smash the popular front regime, and to form that Revolutionary Marxist Party to lead the socialist revolution.

National Liberation fails

As in other parts of Africa, the national liberation struggle in Zimbabwe was strongly influenced by Stalinism and the belief that national independence would have to go through, first, a national democratic stage in preparation for a second, socialist stage. In most cases the liberation struggle achieved political independence but failed to break from imperialist economic dependence. Liberation fighters who were too threatening to imperialism like Lumumba and Cabral were assassinated by order of the imperialists, and all the liberation movements turned into black bourgeoisies who became the agents of imperialist plunder. If they fell out with imperialism as did Mugabe with Britain, it was over the sharing of the spoils.

In Zimbabwe's case, the imperialists imposed sanctions to force the regime into submission. Mugabe's resistance threw the country into stagnation and his regime could only survive by posing as anti-imperialists and repressing any opposition. This ruse is wearing thin as imperialists line up in joint ventures with US and EU imperialists and increasingly with China, to plunder Zimbabwe's mineral wealth, throwing the masses into further poverty and misery.

To shore up his declining popularity Mugabe proposed that the new Constitution would create the basis for a fully democratic and independent Zimbabwe. But this ruse has not won over the people. This is evident in the discontent in the ranks of the International Socialist Organization-Zimbabwe (ISOZ,) the main

historic left reformist party. After years of working in the MDC and now the Constitution consultation process the ISOZ is again exposed as acting as a left cover for the popular front regime. It is claiming that it is possible to influence the regime from within the government of the bourgeoisie whose interests lay with imperialism not the people. This prevents the working masses from acting independently of their class exploiter.

The reformist ISOZ inside the Constitution process. Now that the final draft Constitution has been revealed and a national vote is scheduled for March 16, the ISOZ suddenly finds itself embarrassed that there is nothing in it in the interests of workers. They said to workers that participating in the process of drafting the Constitution was important for workers. It sowed illusions that the Constitution could be in the interests of workers because only now does it say that this is not so.

"It is clear that the Constitution Parliamentary Committee (COPAC) constitution is there to look after the interests of politicians, the rich, employers, capitalists and imperialists, i.e. the 1% of plutocrats or elites, but doing so in a deceptive manner that deludes working people that their interests too are covered. Vanorava mbwa vakaviga mupinyu!"

Now it realises that workers will now see it as betraying them to the regime. It complains that there are at least 15 things wrong with the final draft so that workers must vote 'No' to reject the Draft Constitution. It summarises these:

"Thus the COPAC draft leaves substantially intact the iron fist of the executive im-

perial presidency to be used by the ruling classes to smash revolts from below as the crisis of capitalism locally and internationally worsens. To please the Western capitalist masters, the COPAC draft has scandalously omitted the peoples' rights of economic empowerment, indigenisation and nationalisation of strategic resources, under workers' and communities' democratic control.

Further, it provides for compensation to white farmers and foreigners whose farms were expropriated, but without a cent for the ex-farm-workers who lost their jobs or land for urban housing. The draft will allow the ZANU-PF chiefs and generals to sell for a huge profit the multiple farms they have looted. To ensure this, the draft provides that the land chapter can only be amended after a 2/3 parliamentary majority and a constitutional referendum.

Workers are denied the right to a living wage, a real right to strike; civil servants denied full collective bargaining rights and their full citizenship rights. Women are denied rights to abortion, social grants, or 50-50 parity in jobs. Students are denied the right to education. There are no economic or empowerment rights for youths, women, the unemployed, farmers and informal sector.

There is no right to recall corrupt or ineffective MPs or



Hyper inflation weighs down the masses

## Whither China?

Readers will recall in the last issue we promised to address questions raised in discussions with Paul an independent socialist and self-described China defencist. In the workers movement many militants are confused and misled on the class character of China by taking their leadership from the Spartacist League and their off shoots (IBT & IG). These tendencies have completely missed the transformation of the PRC from a deformed workers state (DWS) into a capitalist state and emerging imperialist power and likewise they have missed the conversion of the Stalinist CCP into a party of the bosses or now the political arm of the bourgeoisie.

The ICL et. al. refuse to see the qualitative transformation of the CCP into its opposite, a capitalist party.

They do not see any reason for restoration because Mao's party is still in power and is not being challenged by any (other) bourgeois party.

It is because the gains of the 1949 revolution are gone and have been revoked by force in the bloody repression of 1989-1992 and with the complete triumph within the CCP of the "Capitalist Roaders" that we call for a transitional program of the socialist revolution. This is especially urgent as US imperialism prepares to provoke an inter-imperialist WWII.

It will then be the gravest political error and betrayal to defend the CCP and the PRC's capitalist regime against the workers of China and the world. Like the Fourth International and the SWP (USA) of old we call on the international working class to take action to prevent world war. Ultimately only the socialist revolution can prevent capitalism from destroying the productive forces they can not put to profitable use except in the destruction of capitals. This has to presuppose casualties from the millions to billions.

Paul evokes Trotsky to explain, "The dialectic deals with laws of motion, one law being 'development through contradictions.' Trotsky on the Soviet Union under Stalin"

"...the contradiction between the social basis laid down by the revolution, and the character of the caste which arose out of the degeneration of the revolution is not only an irrefutable historical fact but also a motor force. In our struggle for the overthrow of the bureaucracy we base ourselves on this contradiction. ..." --Trotsky, "A Petty-Bourgeois Opposition in the Socialist Workers Party," In Defense of Marxism, December 15, 1939.

Dialectics is indeed the study of the laws of motion in society but for the ICL China has been "on the brink" of restoration for 16 years. The contradiction Trotsky described presupposes the unstable equilibrium between the interests of opposing social classes. The unstable contradiction between the interests of opposing Chinese social classes was definitively resolved in favor of the "Capitalist Roaders" at Tiananmen and in the years of repression that followed. What is exactly undialectical in the ICL's approach is all the Rubicon's that the CCP has crossed without any attribution of qualitative change by either the bureaucracy or the ICL. They take as good coin the definition of "Market Socialism" and make apologies for Chinese imperialism making analogies to the Russian NEP of Lenin's time. They deny the basic importance of the swelling of Chinese overseas direct investment, describing this as the normal foreign trade of a workers state. This foolishness is political suicide in our view and to follow this reasoning in the face of the facts is to be a lemming. This is why they can stand before the WC and say that "Market Socialism" is real and exists and is not just a put up job of the Stalinist Fat-Cats their Bolivarian buddies and the recipients of their loans and other largess.

Their "defense" of the "gains" comes down to the sole fact that the Stalinist Party still has the monopoly of state power and is not challenged by other bourgeois parties.

Paul argues, "the Maoist national autarky and Deng's 'market reforms' begun in the late-1970's are two sides of the same Stalinist coin--'socialism in one country.'" The modernization of PRC under "market reforms" has greatly increased the social weight of the proletariat (the "gravedigger" of capitalism and Stalinism), and at the same time strengthened the forces of capitalist restoration."

Paul sees what Robertson wants him to see. The Maoist national autarky defended an economy of "politics in command." Where necessities were increasingly guaranteed and prices were set, subsidized and controlled by the state. Beginning with Deng in the late 1970's the rule of the law of value over the lives of the working class was restored. The "capitalist roaders" have so far repressed the workers movement and are only now beginning to worry about the level of class struggle which takes place outside the party and party controlled unions. The prospect of the industrialization of the Chinese interior indeed raises the question of grave digging for the Stalinist regime which not incidentally is the regime of the bosses. Paul sees the increased social weight we see the increased misery of the proletariat as a process much like the proletarianization of England in the early 19th c. takes place. Paul notices that the forces of capitalist restoration have been strengthened but pay no attention to the fact that they have created out of their own leading ranks a burgeoning class of millionaires and billionaires who exploit the tens of millions of migrant, itinerant and private sector sweat shop workers. Paul quotes Trotsky to us but we would refer him to Trotsky's question of whether the bureaucracy can pass private property to their heirs we have proof they have and do. Further more unlike the Stalinist Bureaucracy of the 1930's USSR these phenomena are no secret. They take state property and privatize it and via nepotism pass it on as share on the world's stock markets to their wives and children. In comparison to the USA where the ruling class has the disadvantage of having to buy their politicians in China at least 70 of the very richest billionaires are the leading politicians.

Paul equates our arguments with the "state capitalism of (Tony Cliff), our reference to the dominance of "the law of value" (LOV) to the arguments of (Raya Dunayevskaya), and our explanation of emergent Chinese imperialism to the "Soviet imperialism" of (Shachtman-Burnham-Abern, and the Revolutionary Communist Party of Bob Avakian).

The Cliffite argument said that the military monopoly, the steel eating, made a bourgeoisie out of the ruling cast. Their power to divvy up the national product made them a bourgeoisie and made the USSR State CAP we never accepted this and explicitly reject this. We saw aspects of state capitalism come and go during the restoration in the Yeltsin years and we see aspects of state capitalism in China today in the operation of SOE's in accordance with the LOV and as private traders and capitalized firms on the international market. The Chinese State Banks even own large percentages of Morgan Stanley and Bank of America which makes these SOE's exploiters of the world as well as Chinese proletarians as opposed to being their representative. You will look far and long to find any socialist content in their activities the Houkou system of police



*Whither China Cont. from pg 16*

registration of the workers has completely supplanted the "iron rice bowl" "the three irons" or any of the guarantees of the '49 revolution. Against these conditions the Chinese working class wages hundreds of thousands of strikes all illegal since '82. These strikes inevitably become political i.e. directed against the policy of the regime against the "market-socialism" the ICL says is a real post capitalist phenomena.

To defend China as a DWS at a time when it becomes increasingly obvious that the declining US imperialism puts its fortunes and its fate on the warpath with Chinese imperialism is to play a social imperialist role that is to take the side of a imperialist capitalist class in an inter-imperialist conflict. This is not a mistake this is treachery of a very usual petty bourgeois sort.

As this short argument will not suffice for more than an introduction to our thinking with this issue of CW we launch the accompanying journal Class Warrior which comes as a stand alone pamphlet containing a more in depth look at the process of restoration of capitalism in China and a critique of the Neo-Kautskyians who are working across the global to drive Leninism out of Lenin's legacy.

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### **Guantanamo Hunger Strike: Criminal US Military Torture of Detainees**



A week after detainees at Guantanamo Bay prison camp were forced from the largest communal area into single cells, nearly half of them are currently on a hunger strike. Seventeen of them are having nutrition drink pumped into their stomachs and the military's Muslim adviser stated on April 18th that the hunger strike will lead to multiple deaths. The hunger strike spread after authorities injured five inmates in a raid on April 13th on the communal area and forced detainees into individual cells. The justification for the raid was ostensibly to prevent the detainees from covering cameras. The hunger strike, thought to have begun on 6 February, is in protest against not only this raid, but for 11 year incarceration without charge or trial, as well as torture.

"They used dogs on us, they beat me, sometimes they hung me from the ceiling and didn't allow me to sleep for six days." said Al Jazeera journalist Sami al-Haj. He spent 6 years at Guantanamo. Al Jazeera reported that Brandon Neely, a US Mil

### **CLASS MEMORY ALERT: Report from Argentina Videla dictatorship operatives in the dock**



**Kissinger & Videla Mass Murderers**

"On March 4th, 1976 in the Ford Factory in Pacheco, 20 union stewards and 5 militants were taken away by the Argentinian military. This was a factory with 7000 workers. After there were no union stewards in this factory for 30 years. The head of company security, Hector Francisco Sibilla, retired Army officer, later became head of security at the US Embassy in Buenos Aires. This day was the first day of a military coup, which meant a black list had been prepared in advance.

Before the kidnapping by the military, according to Jorge Costanza, one of those arrested, the workers had succeeded in leveling wages: "a sweeper who swept the dining room earned the same as other workers in the factory". Costanza says he was tortured for 5 hours after his arrest inside the factory.

After several months, the 25 workers were released. They are now testifying against Muller, the director the factory, who is now on trial, and against the head of labor relations at that time, Alicia Galaraga. "I,m here because I want to tell Muller that everything comes around" said Luis DiGuisti, another worker arrested, "Torturer," Im going to shout in his face and let out everything I have inside." (letter from Earl Gilman)

President Kirchner herself was a prisoner during the military dictatorship, this explains the aspect of minor retribution by the bourgeois legal machine. But workers will get little satisfaction in the bourgeois courts. What is required from us in the US are vigilance, solidarity and communication with worker militants in Argentina and all the Americas to expose the role of the US military and imperialist corporations in the brutal dictatorships which checker so much of the South America's modern history. So for instance we are obliged to tell the unhappy news of the suppression of the trial of Rios Monte in Guatemala. Rios Monte is guilty slaughter of thousands Mayan civilians under the direction of the Reagan White house. His crimes rival those of big time Argentine monsters yet today he is being protected by his top henchmen Molina who is today the president of Guatemala.

*Zimbabwe cont. from pg 16*

councillors, while it creates, per capita, the biggest parliament in Africa.”

But this list is just to cover for ISOZ rotten participation in the ‘consultation’ process. The ISOZ even says that even if these matters were corrected, the capitalist regime would then ignore the Constitution. It should have been honest and said as soon as the new Constitution was mooted, that it was a ruse to create a sham bourgeois democracy when there is no possibility workers gaining anything from parliament; especially as the global capitalist crisis was imposing new austerity attacks on all African workers and farmers imposed by former ‘Marxist’ (read Stalinist/Maoist) regimes like the ANC and ZANU PF. Sectarian ‘Socialist Platform’ abandons workers

As the crisis gets worse in Zimbabwe and the whole of Africa the attacks by imperialism and its client regimes intensify. It is clear that for workers to resist they must defeat both imperialism and the local agents such as the Government of National unity (GNU.) But most workers remain tied to popular fronts like the ANC in South Africa (SA) and the GNU in Zimbabwe. Revolutionaries must organise the most militant workers in united fronts to fight austerity and demand a living wage and decent work, health, housing and education. To do this we need to build independently of the state and the popular front that ties workers hands to the national bourgeoisie and imperialism. Before the working class and poor farmers can organise as a force to defeat the regime they have to win their independence by breaking from the popular front. The workers are tied to the popular fronts by reformists and centrists. In SA the DLF type centrists (Democratic Left Front) move left to provide a cover for reformism. In Zimbabwe the centrists spout revolutionary phrases but at the same time fail to put forward a program to organise workers’ power.

The Workers International League (WIL) Zimbabwe section of the Leninist-Trotskyist International Faction (FLTI), which resulted from a split from ISOZ in 2009 confuses the United Front of action on immediate demands with ‘revolutionary’ sounding demands that fall far short of revolution. For example, the WIL and RWG began discussion on a united front called ‘Socialist Platform’ to organise workers to boycott the Constitution. The WIL drafted a proposal for a ‘Socialist Platform’ that also called on Zimbabwe workers to ‘smash imperialism’. The RWG objected to raising this demand in a UF and pointed out that immediate united front demands should NOT be confused with socialist demands that must be prepared for by a number of transitional demands. The WIL refused to drop its call on a united front to boycott the referendum to also ‘smash imperialism’. This form of ‘political bloc’ is centrist because it confuses the United Front with demands for socialist revolution, and holds back the organisation of workers independence. How is this?

First, it cannot build a genuine united front to advance workers struggle by exposing the agents of the bosses who are tying workers to the popular front. It says to workers that they must ‘smash imperialism’ in order to boycott the Constitution. Putting a barrier in front of reformist workers will prevent the united front from becoming a mass movement. At the same time it gives the bureaucrats and centrists who refuse to break from the popular front and alibi to attack the united front and avoid being exposed as class traitors.

Second, the ‘Socialist Platform’ does not spell out how to get to socialism. In fact it misleads workers by saying that in Marikana the miners won the ‘class war’. No they didn’t, they won 12,500 rand a month but remain trapped in the African National Congress (ANC) popular front which continues to shoot miners on behalf of imperialism. This is not ‘socialism’ but ‘economism’: fighting for wage rises is not yet fighting to overthrow the wage system. Perhaps the WIL is cynically angling to recruit disaffected ISOZ members onto its ‘Socialist Platform’ by claiming that ‘socialism’ can spring from the spontaneous struggle of workers without a revolutionary program or revolutionary party. These are matters for revolutionaries to debate in front of the working class as part of the struggle. But they are no substitute for the united front. By confusing the united front with a ‘socialist’ bloc the WIL holds back the masses at the same time as evading putting in front of the masses the vital questions of the general strike, the arming of workers, the insurrection, and the overthrow of the capitalist state and its replacement with a Workers and Poor Farmers Government.

A mass united front to mobilise workers to boycott the Constitution must be built in the next month and cannot spend its time arguing about which group is more socialist than the other. The ‘Socialist Platform’ on the basis of the WIL draft would have been the worst kind of centrism because while claiming to be for ‘socialism’ it fails to focus its energy on building a necessary first step on the road to socialism; the organisation of independent working class struggle committees capable of forming a national congress to boycott the Constitution and to prepare for a general strike.

## Boycott the Referendum

We need to be clear on why workers and poor farmers should boycott the vote. A ‘no’ vote as proposed by the reformist ISOZ and other organisations (National Congressional Assembly (NCA), Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) and the Progressive Teachers Union (PTUZ) sends a message that the proposed draft is not in the interests of the workers. It doesn’t say that the whole Constitution process is designed to con workers into a popular front. The only reason that the ISOZ say’s vote ‘no’ is that it is embarrassed that it can no longer pretend that workers won anything in the process. It is exposed as a treacherous reformist agent of the popular front. Voting ‘no’ is no more than covering for this treachery. What will follow is that the ISOZ will keep alive illusion that a ‘no’ vote for the Draft will see the whole process repeated and next time workers participation will win some acceptable gains. This means that the ISOZ





has no confidence in the revolutionary working class to fight against and defeat the draft constitution. It even admits in point 15 that: "Like the Lancaster [House Constitution] one, this COPAC constitution will become permanent and enslave us and future generations"!

We reject reformism outright. The draft constitution like all of its predecessors is a charade to provide a fig leaf for a semi-colonial dictatorship in the interests of imperialism, both Western and now today, Chinese. At the outset of this exercise we said that workers must give no support to the process and organised independently. Now that there is a Constitutional crisis, with the reformists exposed, and the centrists running about like headless chickens trying to cackle like the DLF in South Africa, or trying to head off and independent workers movement into sectarian blind alleys like the WIL (FLTI), we say there is only one revolutionary course of action and that is the boycott built around mass mobilizations of the workers, their organizations and the oppressed.



A boycott means several things. First, there is nothing to be learned from voting for a bourgeois Constitution imposed on the people by a bourgeois regime. Workers who have illusions in parliament will be repulsed by the reactionary constitution. All those workers who are repelled to the left and by the treachery of the left reformists like ISOZ will look for leadership for the way forward. The vote 'no' tells them, try again, but meanwhile do not break with the popular front!

Second, there are phony boycotts. Those centrists who try to intercept the left moving workers call for a boycott, but for them this means a very different thing from revolutionaries. For some opportunists who hope to create a DLF like in SA, it means breaking from the draft proposals and building an independent socialist front that remains open to future participation in new proposals. They do not see in the current conjuncture any revolutionary situation emerging in SA or Zimbabwe so wait on events to guide workers spontaneous struggles. The WIL sectarian centrists call for a boycott not only of the Constitution but of capitalism and imperialism at the same time. They see the current world situation as revolutionary or pre-revolutionary, and think that the democratic revolutions that are reviving in MENA and Africa can leap over bourgeois democracy into a spontaneous proletarian revolution without the leadership of a Marxist Revolutionary Party.

The revolutionary position is to build the boycott of the referendum as an immediate political demand to break from the popular front that will free the workers and open the road to independent workers struggles where they can fight for and win demands for jobs, wage, working and social conditions through political strikes against the regime. In the process the vanguard will be won to a Marxist Revolutionary Party and program. As it becomes more independent, confident, armed, it will be capable of over-throwing the regime and replacing it with a workers and poor farmers' government. So the struggle builds from united fronts for immediate demands to the seizure of power and

a workers government and socialist plan following the transitional method of Lenin and Trotsky. Transitional Program

We can summarise the method and program of Lenin and Trotsky. The first duty of the revolutionaries is to explain the truth to the masses. Capitalism in the epoch of imperialism is undergoing a potentially terminal crisis. It is facing a showdown between revolution and counter-revolution. Imperialism

can only survive by destroying the lives and living conditions of the working masses. For workers to live capitalism must die! There can be no future for the masses without overthrowing the bosses' regimes and with it the capitalist state. For this the masses need an independent party and program to guide it along the revolutionary road and across the bridge from reform to revolution. All those forces who act as barriers on that road must be exposed and destroyed. This means breaking with the union bureaucrats that are the

agents of the capitalist state to suppress class struggle in the unions. It means breaking with the centrist and Menshevik/Stalinist left that tells workers that the road is long and steep and that with the help of the centrists, they will reach their final goal in the end.

**The revolutionary program is the Transitional Program that begins with immediate demands:**

- **For jobs for all, a living wage, free health, education and welfare;**
- **To national democratic demands such as land nationalisation, a state bank, a unicameral parliament based on universal suffrage; and to achieve this, Socialist demands for workers councils, workers militias, strikes and occupations to create dual power to overthrow the capitalist regime.**

**This will put in power a Workers and Poor Farmers' Government able to:**

- **Expropriate the imperialists' property and that of the national capitalists;**
- **To socialise the minerals, land, banks, energy and communications without compensation and under workers' and poor farmers' control!**

**Such a government would:**

- **Impose a socialist plan integrated with those of all the other countries in Africa that make a socialist revolution to form a Union of Socialist Republics of Africa!**

*Statement of the Liaison Committee of Communists composed of the Revolutionary Workers Group Zimbabwe Communist Workers Group NZ/Ao, Communist Workers Group (USA) and the February 23, 2013*

## AFTER THE BOYCOTT, ORGANISE TO DEFEAT THE POPULAR FRONT!

The referendum on the new constitution was held on the 16th of March 2013 with only around 40% of eligible voters voting on the acceptability or otherwise of the draft written by the three parties in government together with their imperialist masters through UNDP. Over half of the eligible voters boycotted the referenda in a clear sign of protest to the GNU and the policies of the three parties that have wrecked the lives of the ordinary poor and were using the referendum to create the political basis for further attacks on the poor masses through brutal austerity measures demanded by imperialism. Of those who voted 92% were in support of the document with only about 5% rejecting it and the remainder filled by protest votes and/or spoiled papers. Even on this basis the draft cannot be regarded as legitimate given the number of people who one way or the other saw through the tricks of the inclusive dictatorship and rejected the referendum farce. All the parties in the GNU have welcomed the results as historic and now calling for the entrenchment of constitutionalism i.e. acceptance of the culture of capitalist domination. Those calling for a No vote have rejected the outcome and vow to continue to oppose the constitution until a democratic and people driven one is in place.

For us the number of people who boycotted the process represents a latent political force in Zimbabwe of workers and the ordinary poor who are opposed to the policies of the current regime but with no clear answer as to the real solution given the historical domination of reformism and centrism. The popular front regime has brought untold suffering to the people and this must end through smashing the regime and its social basis in order to conquer the interests of the ordinary poor. Workers, students, poor farmers, poor resident, unemployed and the informally employed must mobilise now for a UNITED FRONT to oppose the popular front regime that is now preparing to launch another round of attacks on the living conditions of the poor.

In our campaign for a boycott and the meetings we held with workers, students and the ordinary poor we reiterated the need to launch the UNITED FRONT to spearhead the responses of the poor and exploited masses with the two meetings endorsing the call. To that end the RWG (Zim) will be agitating for the creation of local struggle committees in unions and struggle organisations to call for the convening of the UNITED FRONT of struggle organisations and individuals dedicated to the defeat of the policies being championed by the regime and those being proffered by those intending to replace the regime without replacing the capitalist basis. We congratulate the ordinary people of Zimbabwe for boycotting the referendum and now call upon them to organise to smash the capitalism and its agents.

*Revolutionary Workers Group-Zimbabwe*  
21 March 2013

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**CWGCLASSWAR@GMAIL.COM**

*Guantanamo cont from pg 17*

itary Policeman and former Guantanamo guard, said that detainees were “treated horribly” and that he regularly watched detainees being beaten and humiliated. The criminal torture of the Guantanamo detainees under the Obama administration is a continuation of the Bush administrations “War on Terror” in the aftermath of 9/11 in violation of US Laws and international treaties. As a new report released by the bipartisan Constitution Project stated:

“Perhaps the most important or notable finding of this panel is that it is indisputable that the United States engaged in the practice of torture.”

Democrats and their AFL-CIO leadership friends wish you would forget that Obama promised to close Guantanamo exactly because of the human rights abuses, when he ran for office in 2008.

US imperialism has proven itself over and over again as the world’s biggest terrorist and threat to humanity. From Hiroshima to My Lai to the devastation of the Iraq and Afghan Wars, American capitalism has left in its wake devastation and death. As the Obama administration conducts drone strikes abroad, the racist US cops wage a virtual war against the Black, Brown and immigrant communities at home as every 28 hours a Black person is killed by the cops. And the Obama administration has deported immigrants in record numbers. Recently police torture in Chicago has been prominent in the press (see “Two Decades of Police Torture in Chicago” in this issue of Class War).

It is high time the working class of the United States, North America and the world unite and fight to end this injustice and create a humane world. We need to rally behind a revolutionary program of socialism in revolutionary workers parties to abolish capitalism once and for all.

Close down Guantanamo Bay prison torture facilities! Free the detainees!

Return Guantanamo to Cuba!

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/americas/2013/04/201342172239565373.html>

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/04/18/guantanamo-hunger-strike-deaths\\_n\\_3110642.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/04/18/guantanamo-hunger-strike-deaths_n_3110642.html)

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/04/20/guantanamo-hunger-strike\\_n\\_3123554.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/04/20/guantanamo-hunger-strike_n_3123554.html)

<http://www.rawstory.com/rs/2013/04/14/british-prisoner-describes-hunger-strikes-people-are-dying-in-guantanamo-bay/>

<http://news.yahoo.com/obamas-guantanamo-policy-hit-violence-force-feeding-003214010.html>

[http://ccrjustice.org/files/Report\\_ReportOnTorture.pdf](http://ccrjustice.org/files/Report_ReportOnTorture.pdf)

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/04/16/harry-reid-guantanamo-bay\\_n\\_3094881.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/04/16/harry-reid-guantanamo-bay_n_3094881.html)

*Cont. from pg 9 Union refuse to save SEATS*

free, comprehensive service that fully covers the entire county. For their part, the Iowa City Federation of Labor leadership tried to encourage via email a few trade-unionists to attend the Iowa City Council meeting where SEATS was discussed. This is far divorced from the mass mobilization of the entire labor movement allied to the working class community that is necessary to beat back these attacks. By shifting focus solely to the city councils, and in a lame manner at that, the class collaborationist labor leaders are providing a labor cover to the Democratic Party County Board of Supervisors who initiated these cuts, all of whom are the darlings of and politically endorsed by the City Fed leadership, particularly Supervisor Rod Sullivan, the vocal point man for imposing the SEATS cuts by the county. Rod Sullivan attended as a welcome guest the Iowa City Fed annual Chili Supper on Jan 17th, the very day that the Press Citizen announced that SEATS cuts had been placed on the table by the County Board of Supervisors.

While the Democratic Party politicians of Johnson Coun

*Cont. bottom pg 22 Col.1*



## Remembering the Iron Lackey

On April 8, 2013, Margaret Thatcher died. A controversial figure, some have called her one of the most remarkable leaders of modern times (Margaret Thatcher Foundation) and committed other such acts of hagiography. Others, celebrated her death by singing “ding dong the bitch is dead”. Remove the rose-colored glasses: she was the Iron Lackey. She was, along with many other politicians in her class, a servile follower, or lackey, of the capitalist industrial complex. She unapologetically destroyed social programs in her quest to be one of Britain’s great leaders. One would have thought, as a woman, and coming from a petit bourgeois background, she would have had sympathy for and supported the working class, who no doubt frequented her father’s grocery shop. But she categorically and singlehandedly, during her unprecedented 3 terms, sought to destroy the social infrastructure of the British political system, and it took years subsequent to her tenure for the damage to be minimally undone.

“Whatever else may be true of her, Thatcher engaged in incredibly consequential acts that affected millions of people around the world.

She played a key role not only in bringing about the first Gulf War but also using her influence to publicly advocate for the 2003 attack on Iraq. She denounced Nelson Mandela and his ANC as “terrorists”, something even David Cameron ultimately admitted was wrong. She was a steadfast friend to brutal tyrants such as Augusto Pinochet, Saddam Hussein and Indonesian dictator General Suharto (“One of our very best and most valuable friends”). (Greenville

Post, 4/8/13). “Across Britain, Thatcher is still hated for the damage she inflicted – and for her political legacy of rampant inequality and greed, privatisation and social breakdown.” (Guardian, 2012). Thatcher, along with Reagan, were the most vociferous Cold War warriors against the working class gains of the degenerated Soviet workers state in the 1980’s, as well as attacking the unions at home. Just as with Reagan breaking the PATCO strike in the United States, Thatcher’s campaign against the 1984-85 British NUM Miner’s strike was a signature defeat for the British labor movement.

Karlmarx.net (4/8/13) briefly and elegantly described her upbringing as such: “Thatcher grew up in a classical English petty-bourgeois family. Her father owned two grocery shops in Grantham. He preached the word of God, was staunchly patriotic,

and became the town’s Mayor from 1945-6. His self-confidence derived from selecting of tins of food that command a good price and turn a good profit. His daughter, Margaret, also formed her intellectual outlook around the petty proprietor’s fetish for the magical qualities of prices”.

Jeremy Bentham, a 19th century satirist, famous for his wry commentary regarding ordinary bourgeois intelligence in the 19 century stated, “To know what is useful to a dog, one must study dog-nature”. He subsequently continued on the nature of the modern English shopkeeper as a prototype for the “normal man”, “whatever is useful to this queer normal man, and to his world, is absolutely useful. This yard-measure, then, he applies to past, present and future”. This insular and simplistic unevolving intellect can thereby be attributed to Margaret Thatcher’s own Father, and to her by association, with her environment growing up. A very clear and simple recipe for perceiving the world, that when challenged does not respond at all dialectically, but steadies it’s rudder and keeps it course towards an inevitable destructive and conservative end game. Like modern day flat-earthers, or Bible-thumping Neanderthals. Marx said, “For the bureaucrat,

the world is a mere object to be manipulated by him.” Thatcher was the quintessential bureaucrat and lackey for financial interests, daily toiling away for her pragmatic good, forgetting the human component involved within and resulting from her policies, rules and regulations.

For University, she went to Oxford to study chemistry, “but she lacked outstanding intellectual gifts or inno-

vative entrepreneurial talent”. Her narrow-minded upbringing and subsequent simplistic problem solving skills caused her to ultimately become interested in conservative politics, and while at Oxford, she met many prominent conservative politicians. She ended up serving 3 terms (1979 – 90) as British Prime Minister. During those 3 terms she was most well known for several pro-capital policies, such as “The Big Bang” which involved massive deregulation of financial services, and gave power to international banks like Goldman Sachs. Another policy that enriched Britain’s coffers enormously was her privatization of more than 50 formerly nationalized companies, thus making more than 50 billion pounds for the exchequer. (The Week 4/9/13). And she “dragged” the Labor Party to the right, by securing their support for her privatization schemes, reforms of unemployment laws

*Cont Pg 22 Col. 1*



Thatcher and Chilean Mass Murderer Pinochet: two peas in a pod

*The Iron Lackey cont from pg 21*

and tax decreases.

Credited with helping to end the cold war, again, she had her eye on the prize for big and international business interests as she rubbed elbows with Gorbachev and Reagan to “tear down the Iron curtain” once and for all. In fact her name the “iron lady” came from her staunch and iron like resistance to the former Soviet Union and socialism. Her involvement in the Malvinas’ war, or the 1982 Falklands war, for which Britain received enormous military aid and communication assistance from both the US and Pinochet of Chile, although both of these countries claimed to give diplomatic assistance alone, was a full-fledged imperialist war, since a British victory meant a victory for imperialism as a whole.

Two other controversial policies, for which Thatcher is famous, was the “right to buy” scheme, and the poll tax. Right to buy allowed council tenants to buy the public property they inhabited, thus decreasing the overall numbers in social housing and making money, 18 billion pounds for the government, once again, and with the added bonus of recruiting a bunch of now conservative voters. The poll tax charged a tax per person rather than per household, thus punishing low-income people who had to live in shared or overcrowded housing, again, making more money for the government, at the expense of those with the least money. This tax was highly and violently protested, and was overturned 4 years after it was initiated.

During the funeral procession in London, Mary, from Soho, had a sign reading “Thatcher: a class warrior for capitalism”, and said, “They thought this woman would be the answer but instead she became totally money-minded and this country is totally class divided now between those who have and those who haven’t got anything...” She ruined the lives of workers. She made miners and steelworkers out of work forever. Meanwhile, rich people got richer.” (The Mirror 4/17/13).

Even her efforts at educational reform managed to garner her the title “the Education Secretary who “snatched” free milk from 7 to 11 year olds” as she canceled the free milk program for poor children. (The Week 4/9/13). The Reverend Paul Nicolson, 80, founder of Taxpayers Against Poverty, remembers well the agony caused by the Poll Tax. He said: “I know the grief eviction causes. Over 1000 people were put into prison for non payment of poll tax. It was mostly mothers who suffered”. (The Mirror 4/17/13).

Every single thing she seems to have “accomplished” resulted in the destruction of a social program or social infrastructural component of Britain, at the expense of the working class and low-income individuals, and for the benefit of the “country”, but

(Cont. pg 24 col2)

*Union Tops won't save SEATS cont from pg 20*

ty kick the elderly and disabled off SEATS transit and to the curb, they are pushing for a \$40 plus million dollar “Injustice Center” yet again, which has previously been voted down. Their answer to capitalist decay is more jail cells. The Justice Center measure last November that lost was also endorsed by the Iowa City Federation of Labor leaders. Just as they demobilize the workers in fighting austerity through abstention from struggle, these “Labor Lieutenants of Capital” do their part in trying to help the capitalist state incarcerate largely people of color, who have been cast aside by a degenerate economic system of exploitation.

Below is the CWG united front leaflet and the correspondence with the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council official.....

**For a workers’ fight in alliance with the elderly,  
disabled and students; with the Black, Brown, immigrant  
and  
Native American communities to rollback austerity!  
Organize a mass forum to build a fight to  
defeat the attacks on Johnson County SEATS!**

The Communist Workers Group (USA) is calling on organizations and individuals to organize a mass meeting in the community to start to build a fight back against the Johnson County Board of Supervisors defunding of SEATS para-transit, a county program that provides transportation services for the elderly and disabled. The county is trying to push the responsibility for fully-funding this critical program for which demand is increasing on the municipalities. This has evolved into a petty quarrel between the officials of the County Board of Supervisors and Iowa City (Daily Iowan, Feb 21), as the county subsidizes the difference between what is contracted to the county by Iowa City and the costs. While the CWG has no dog in the dispute between these officials, from the perspective of the disabled, the elderly and the working class, it makes sense to keep it at the county level with absolutely no cuts in any funding or services. In fact, SEATS needs to be extended as a free seven day a week county-wide service.

As quoted in the Press Citizen, this is a question of quality of life “All of my rides with SEATS are medical, I never use it for anything personal. It’s very important for me,” Galdner said. “SEATS is my survival.” (Press Citizen Feb 17, 2013) Along with the University of Iowa Hospitals eliminating the Patient Transport Services this year, these austerity measures are becoming a life and death matter as those who most depend on these services are increasingly forced to choose between healthcare, food or housing. This is especially true for those on fixed incomes, such as the elderly. How exactly these cuts by the county will affect SEATS is unclear at this time. But we can bet that it will lead to a degradation of this vital community service.

The major social gains of the past were won as a result of social and class struggles, not through the ballot box or elected officials. In particular, it is the power of the organized working class, mobilized independently of the Democratic/Republican parties, and in alliance with the broader sections of the community that has the strength to effect change. Union workers are in the crosshairs of cuts in SEATS. A union leadership worth its salt would do more than send a few representatives to a city council meeting and would actively be trying to organize and mobilize the rank and file workers and the working class community to oppose these cuts as a fight for all workers and for social justice. While the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council leadership, the Iowa City Federation of Labor, will post every election season their list of endorsed candidates, including some of those very Democratic Party County Board of Supervisors officials imposing the SEATS cuts, they have as of yet made no public statement denouncing these actions. The AFL-CIO leadership have abandoned this fight, much like they have let the labor movement be decimated without any real struggle. It is up to us who are being affected or potentially affected by these cuts to stand up if we

want to preserve these social services.

The CWG is calling on all labor, Leftist, disabled and senior organizations; militant and rank and file workers; the Black, Brown and immigrant communities and Native American People, to help build a forum to unite and organize a fight to defend SEATS. We need to organize mass worker/community assemblies, demonstrations, protests and political labor strikes if we want to beat back these attacks. By starting to organize democratic rank-and-file workers assemblies and committees among both organized and unorganized workers; allied with the oppressed communities, we can start to build a fight to defeat this austerity and fight for jobs, healthcare, housing and education for all.

This is the reply by an official of the AFL-CIO Central Labor Council, the Iowa City Federation of Labor to the above CWG united front call to defend SEATS submitted by a CWG member, trade-unionist and former delegate from AFSCME Local 12 to the Iowa City Federation of Labor..

From: Jesse C

Sent: Friday, March 01, 2013 8:59 AM

To: Christopher C

Subject: RE: Organize a mass forum to build a fight to defeat the attacks on Johnson County SEATS!

Chris,

I was with you until you started bashing labor in your diatribe. It convoluted the message and immediately alienated labor from your "alliance".

Good luck with your endeavors.

Jesse C

Here is the CWG reply to the abstentionist labor leadership and the pathetic attempt to paint the CWG call as "anti-labor".....

From: Christopher C

Sent: Wednesday, March 06, 2013 8:53 PM

To:

Subject: RE: Organize a mass forum to build a fight to defeat the attacks on Johnson County SEATS!

Brother Jesse,

In response to your excuses not to take up and initiate a campaign by the Iowa City Fed to defend the SEATS system, I want to address what you deride in our call as a "bashing labor diatribe." This is a calculated distortion of what was actually written and serves as your "legitimate" escape from the tasks at hand which you refuse to show leadership on. The leaflet is about defending the workers, the unions and the general community. The leaflet makes clear that it is abstention by union leaderships that is being criticized, not the labor movement or the unions. There is a big difference.

It is the task of rank and file and class conscious workers to develop and direct the leaders but when the leaders collude against our interests, with the class enemy, they must be held accountable! The leadership and paid staff is not the labor movement. It often thinks it is! And the membership in turn refers to the union in the third person as "them." The leadership keeps this division alive by getting way too cozy with the representatives of the ruling class in the congress, the statehouse and on the local city councils and boards. There is a distinction between the movement wanting to defend itself and an obsequious

leadership corralling us into the dead end of the Democratic Party method which requires that labor lay down and accept austerity and defeat, a path that we have been on for decades (PATCO, Hormel, Wisconsin, Michigan, etc.).

The City Fed officials and local union leadership are going to defend SEATS how? What's the plan? It is not like this is some obscure issue that has not been in the news since January. There are no neutrals here. Abstention from struggle is itself demobilizing the working class and going along with the cuts; and silence is tacitly supporting the Board of Supervisors in making these cuts to SEATS. Although the blame should be shared between the County Board of Supervisors and the various city administrations and they both should be targeted.

The Press Citizen on Jan 17th first ran the story that cuts may very well be on the way, from budget discussions of the County Board of Supervisors earlier in that week. Jan 17th was also the day of the annual City Fed Chili Supper, which sees the mass mobilization of Democratic Party politicians to dine at labor's table. Supervisor Rod Sullivan, the most vocal proponent of the County cutting funding to SEATS, was there. What an opportunity for the union officials and the delegates to organize a protest then and there in defense of our unions and the working class against those who, anyone with eyes to see, would have known was going to impose the cuts! We should ask our movement why was this wolf in sheep's clothing allowed at our dining table in the first place? It is because of the ongoing class collaboration with those agents of Wall Street the Democratic and Republican politicians. Action committees could have been formed that night to start to prepare the fight. The phones and Xerox machines used every election for the Democrats could be turned into tools to mobilize labor starting now.

Where is our labor leadership? Where is the initiative to try to mass mobilize? Where was the plan to defeat the Patient Transport Services cuts??? Let's unleash labor's resources now! Labor must open its halls to the entire working class to organize mass meetings charting an independent course of action by our class to defeat the austerity the twin party's of Wall St. are assaulting us with now.

Also the Sequestration cuts occurring will be used as an excuse to try to go after the social gains of 1933-73. Why isn't there a massive effort to try to reach out and organize the mass of the organized workers and the working class communities to build a fight back against all this austerity? Here is our chance as a labor movement to draw a line and dig in our heels and defend the elderly, the sick and disabled. If we don't do it here and now, when and where will we defend lives, jobs and services against the social saboteurs?!

Below is an article on the Sequestration from a group of workers apparently part of the Emergency Labor Network:

<http://laborfightback.org/>

<http://resistancephl.com/2013/03/01/how-across-the-board-cuts-sequestration-would-cause-great-pain-to-millions/>

Below are links to articles on SEATS:

<http://www.press-citizen.com/article/20130204/OPINION02/302040004/Riders-governments-benefit-from-keeping-SEATS-is>

<http://thegazette.com/2013/01/16/johnson-county-seats-program-hangs-in-the-balance/>

<http://www.press-citizen.com/article/20130218/NEWS01/302180016/City-county-officials-argue-about-where-funding-SEATS-should-come-from>

<http://dailyiowan.com/2013/02/21/Metro/31985.html>

## What we Fight For

### We fight to overthrow Capitalism

Historically, capitalism expanded world-wide to free much of humanity from the bonds of feudal or tribal society, and developed the economy, society and culture to a new higher level. But it could only do this by exploiting the labour of the productive classes to make its profits. To survive, capitalism became increasingly destructive of "nature" and humanity. In the early 20th century it entered the epoch of imperialism in which successive crises unleashed wars, revolutions and counter-revolutions. Today we fight to end capitalism's wars, famine, oppression and injustice, by mobilising workers to overthrow their own ruling classes and bring to an end the rotten, exploitative and oppressive society that has exceeded its use-by date.

### We fight for Socialism.

By the 20th century, capitalism had created the pre-conditions for socialism – a world-wide working class and modern industry capable of meeting all our basic needs. The potential to eliminate poverty, starvation, disease and war has long existed. The October Revolution proved this to be true, bringing peace, bread and land to millions. But it became the victim of the combined assault of imperialism and Stalinism. After 1924 the USSR, along with its deformed offspring in Europe, degenerated back towards capitalism. In the absence of a workers political revolution, capitalism was restored between 1990 and 1992. Vietnam and China then followed. In the 21st century only Cuba and North Korea survive as degenerate workers states. We unconditionally defend these states against capitalism and fight for political revolution to overthrow the bureaucracy as part of world socialist revolution.

### We fight to defend Marxism

While the economic conditions for socialism exist today, standing between the working class and socialism are political, social and cultural barriers. They are the capitalist state and bourgeois ideology and its agents. These agents claim that Marxism is dead and capitalism need not be exploitative. We say that Marxism is a living science that explains both capitalism's continued exploitation and its attempts to hide class exploitation behind the appearance of individual "freedom" and "equality". It reveals how and why the reformist, Stalinist and centrist misleaders of the working class tie workers to bourgeois ideas of nationalism, racism, sexism and equality. Such false beliefs will be exploded when the struggle against the inequality, injustice, anarchy and barbarism of capitalism in crisis, led by a revolutionary Marxist party, produces a revolutionary class-consciousness.

### We fight for a Revolutionary Party

The bourgeois and its agents condemn the Marxist party as

totalitarian. We say that without a democratic and a centrally organised party there can be no revolution. We base our beliefs on the revolutionary tradition of Bolshevism and Trotskyism. Such a

party, armed with a transitional program, forms a bridge that joins the daily fight to defend all the past and present gains won from capitalism to the victorious socialist revolution. Defensive struggles for bourgeois rights and freedoms, for decent wages and conditions, will link up the struggles of workers of all nationalities, genders, ethnicities and sexual orientations, bringing about movements for workers control, political strikes and the arming of the working class, as necessary steps to workers' power and the smashing of the bourgeois state. Along the way, workers will learn that each new step is one of many in a long march to revolutionize every barrier put in the path to their victorious revolution.

### We fight for Communism.

Communism stands for the creation of a classless, stateless society beyond socialism that is capable of meeting all human needs. Against the ruling class lies that capitalism can be made "fair" for all, that nature can be "conserved", that socialism and communism are "dead", we raise the red flag of communism to keep alive the revolutionary tradition of the Communist Manifesto of 1848, the Bolshevik-led October Revolution, the Third Communist International until 1924, and the revolutionary Fourth International up to its collapse into centrism, with the closing of the International center. We fight to build a new Communist International, as a world party of socialism capable of leading workers to a victorious struggle for socialism.

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***Join us: where overthrowing capitalism is all in a days work !!***

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*The Iron Lackey Cont. from pg 22*

never for the people. She was the Iron Lackey, whose conservative values were hoodwinked and molded by the ruling class, via her self-satisfied petit bourgeois upbringing, peppered, no doubt with no small amount of disdain for her father's working class customers. Conservatism lies in the value structure of conserving what you have. As Marx very astutely said, "It is not the consciousness of men that determines their being, but, on the contrary, their social being that determines their consciousness." Her early socio-political upbringing and training solidly set her course. She had nowhere to go but up herself, and yet she forgot all the other people in Britain who still were trying to make their own way. So for the Iron Lackey, may there be another level in Dante's Inferno, created just for her. And the name fits, for her staunch and steadfast servitude to the capital's interest.

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